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IOM help sought in evacuation

By Fernando del Mundo

THE PHILIPPINES has appealed to the Geneva-based International Organization for Migration (IOM) for help in the evacuation of thousands of Filipino workers fleeing rebellion-torn Libya in what was described as a complex humanitarian operation.

Dozens of Filipinos arrived in Manila in small batches at the weekend from Tripoli, others they were flown by their respective companies after escaping violence in the North African country.

The arrivals included civil engineers, architects and other highly skilled workers repatriated by their Paris-based construction company Vinci-Grands Projets.

Civil engineer Pete Duplay told reporters at Ninoy Aquino International Airport that "complete bedlam" had gripped the Filipino neighborhood near Tripoli. "It's terrifying (when) a bomb (explodes)"

President Aquino has said his administration is prepared, if necessary, to evacuate up to 33,000 of the estimated 26,000 mostly highly skilled Filipinos working in non-

IOM HELP, A10

TEARFUL REUNION A Filipino working in Libya grins his wide as he spots returning to Manila together with 50 other countrymen who were evacuated from the strife-torn North African state through the efforts of the Philippine government and their employers. EVERT NG

Zubiri: Gov't action 'too little, too late'

By TJ Burgonio

THE GOVERNMENT may have acted "too little, too late" in evacuating thousands of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) out of troubled Libya, Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri said yesterday.

Zubiri observed that while its Asian neighbors had pulled out their nationals in the past two months, the Philippines had yet to organize a concrete, singular plan of action for the evacuation of thousands of Filipinos.

"It's still chaotic for our OFWs. They have no clear-cut where they're supposed to go. They're not even sure where to go. If we judge the response of our nation, compared with its Southeast Asian neighbors, we're too little too late."

Citing media reports, Zubiri said it was painful that the only assurances that government could give to distressed Filipinos were bus rides across nearby country to the early weeks of the unrest.

The first batch of displaced OFWs flew home on Saturday through the efforts of their employers, agencies

ZUBIRI, A10

Obama to Gadhafi: Leave

"I'll FOR IT FUN RUN Inquirer Chair Marixi Prieto and president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez (left photo) kicked up butts running the newspaper's 25th anniversary run yesterday. It culminated as Bonifacio Global City in Taguig City. (Story on Page A1.)

UK, Russia also assail use of force in Libya

WASHINGTON—President Barack Obama dropped the careful condemnation, threats of consequences and the reminders to Moammar Gadhafi's regime about its responsibility to avoid violence. In their place, he delivered a more forceful message to the Libyan leader: Leave.

Obama called on Gadhafi to step down for the first time on Saturday, saying that the Libyan government must be held accountable for its brutal crackdown on dissenters.

"The president stated that when a leader's only means of staying in power is to use mass violence against his own people, he has lost the legitimacy to rule and needs to do what is right for his country by leaving now," the White House said.

Obama's call for Gadhafi to relinquish his 41-year grip on power came the same day the United Nations Security Council imposed an arms embargo and other sanctions against Libya, and urged UN member countries to freeze the assets of Gadhafi, four of his sons and a daughter. (See related stories on Pages A9 and A28.)

Latest reports from Libya said hundreds of armed antigovernment forces backed by rebel troops who control Zawiya, the city

OBAMA, A-9

Tolstoy's happy families and people power revolutions

By Amando Doronila
(Rizal is seen)

LEO TOLSTOY, in "Anna Karenina," wrote, "Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way."

In the face of the wave of popular revolutions that have remodeled the Middle East (from Tunisia and Egypt to Libya) in just a couple of months, it has become evident that unhappy societies ruled by such aphorisms (now fashionably called "people power") do not emulate one another.

They have taken different trajectories leading to either success or failure, as monolithic overthrows of dictatorial regimes in Tunisia and Egypt, or a bloodbath, where the revolutions, as generically called "people power," has plunged Libya into civil war.

ANALYSIS

The Philippines ruminated on Friday its commemoration of the 25th anniversary of its February 1986 Edsa People Power Revolution. Filipinos reminded (in the eye of the world, including the nonbelievers from world, home to Tolstoy's unwieldy tsars and aristocrats, but little else from which other societies ("unhappy families") might draw lessons in transforming their autocracies (capsule: into democracies).

Our commemoration was bathed in swallowings of nostalgia for that bloodless "shining moment" of our history. The recollections came from articulate members of the strategic social groups (the military, the Catholic Church, the political activists of civil society), which played

TOLSTOY'S, A-9

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On eve of Oscars, Fil-Am wins

By Robert V. Hegalan
Los Angeles Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—On the eve of the Academy Awards, Marilyn Libunjacan, the Filipino cinematographer of "Black Swan," won the best cinematography prize at the Independent Spirit Awards held in Santa Monica, California.

Libunjacan, the top Filipino-American creative talent working behind the scenes in the film industry today, scales in the morning for the best cinematography honors at the Oscars, which takes place today, Monday morning (Monday night in the United States). It is his first Academy nomination.

The lensman's win in the independent Spirit Awards, which recognizes excellence in films with budgets under $20 million, is his second. Libunjacan won the trophy for the first time with "Requiem for a Dream," one of his earliest films with his frequent collaborator, Darren Aronofsky.

"Black Swan" dominated the night's awards, winning in all the categories in which it was nominated, including best feature, best director (Aronofsky) and best actress (Natalie Portman). The film pulled an upset

FIM FOR A-17

Sick of 'jejemon'? Help on the way

By Allan Nawal
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—Pissed by text messages, e-mails or blogs with the written in "jejemon"?

Jejemon is a new kind of slang, with complicated rewrites on spelling. Those who jejemon greet people and write "hello" but will use "HOw pUdUtAtuu" or write "BgAU pak" and "wAlAq Hah."

Help is on the way to put jejemon texting into a grammatically correct form.

A student taking up BS Computer Science here took an existing software

DAVAO, A-10

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

2-2-3 Combination
1ST DRAW 14 4 10 30 10 16
2ND DRAW 9 5 6 2 0 5
3RD DRAW 3 8 2
SUPERLOTTO 6/45
12 16 27 28 30 44
P16,000,000.00

SC didn't debate Merci's petition

By Marlon Ramos

THE SUPREME Court initially shielded Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez from impeachment in the House of Representatives by granting her motion for certiorari of Sept. 13, 2010, "without" deliberating on the petition, according to Associate Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno.

Sereno, President Aquino's first and only appointee to the high court, shared this information in her separate opinion supporting the tribunal's July 13 ruling that allowed the House justice committee to resume with the impeachment proceedings against Gutierrez.

The latest nod dealers also lifted the two-year term order which the magistrates in a vote of 8-3 with four abstentions—issued in favor of the Ombudsman on Sept. 14, 2010, a day after she filed the petition.

The separate opinion strikes out pseudo the House impeachment proceedings for two months.

"[T]he issuance of the status quo ante order in this case was most unfortunate," Sereno said. She noted that her colleagues granted Gutierrez's petition despite her said Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio's and Conde to Carpio Morales's objections.

"I believed then, as I believe now, that the court... was unwarranted in its action to grant a power that does not belong to it by restraining without hearing a coequal branch of government," she argued.

Sereno added that this "belief was made more acute by the fact that the order was voted upon in the morning of Sept. 14, 2010, without the benefit of a genuinely informed debate."

Favorable ruling

She said "several members of the court" had not seen the copy of Gutierrez's petition when the tribunal acted favorably on it during their regular full court session that day.

Copies of the 8th, 15 documents—which was issued after the high court conducted several oral arguments on the Gutierrez petition—as well as those of Sereno and other justices' own opinions were only made available in the media last week.

On the other hand, the court did not issue a resolution explaining by Sept. 14, 2010, ruling. Instead, Supreme Court spokesperson Midas Marquez held a news briefing to announce that Gutierrez had won a reprieve from the court.

With 14 of them chosen by former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the 15-member tribunal has been constantly perceived as protecting Arroyo and her allies—an accusation that the court has vehemently denied.

In his own opinion upholding the July 13 majority decision, Carpio shared Sereno's observation, noting that he, Sereno and Member Saul requested more time to study the pleading.

Carpio said Gutierrez filed her petition at 9:01 a.m. on Sept. 13 but pass but he saw a copy of the document only on the afternoon of the next day "after the en banc morning session of that day."

"The petition consists of 66 pages, excluding the annexes. All the justices should have been given time, at least an hour or two as is the practice in such urgent cases," he said.

"Unfortunately, this was not done," Carpio said.

Two complaints

Carpio also affirmed the majority ruling, penned by his colleague, Member, that the House did not violate the constitution of prosecution but ring the filing of more than one impeachment case within a year against a public official.

The first impeachment complaint against the Ombudsman was filed by Gerardo Albayan Jr. and the parents of the late Mary Ranges Phillip Pestaño on July 22, 2010.

The group accused Gutierrez of betraying the public trust and violating the Constitution for the "dismal and inexcusable low" performance of her office in convicting corrupt public officials.

Supe secretary general Rosalie Jesus A. filed a separate complaint against Gutierrez on Aug. 3, 2010, for her alleged failure to prosecute those behind the P728 million botched land scam.

Although there were two impeachment complaints against Gutierrez, Carpio said these were referred to the House justice committee as of the same time on Aug. 11, 2010.

"The committee on justice acted on the two complaints, ruling on the sufficiency of form, and later of substance, at the same time. ... There is nothing in the Constitution that prohibits the consolidation of the first and second complaints since they were referred ... to the committee ... at the same time," Carpio argued.

In her petition, Gutierrez claimed that the House justice committee violated her right to due process when it declared that the two complaints were sufficient in form and substance.

Judge sanctioned for leaving hundreds of cases hanging

By Marlon Ramos

THE SUPREME Court has imposed a P40,000 fine on a retired Cebu regional trial court judge who failed to decide hundreds of cases assigned to him and committed other judges to promptly resolve their cases.

In its Feb. 16 resolution, the high tribunal's Second Division upheld the July 6, 2009, decision of the Office of the Court Administrator (OCA) finding retired Mandaue City RTC Branch 56 Judge Augustine A. Ventil "guilty of undue delay in deciding cases."

"We cannot overemphasize the court's policy on prompt disposition of dispositive matters delayed is justice denied," said the ruling penned by Associate Justice Diosdado Peralta.

"The honor and integrity of the judicial system is threatened not only by the dishonest and conniving of dishonest members, but also by the efficiency with which disputes are resolved," the court added.

Joining Peralta in his decision were Justice Antonio Carpio and Associate Justices Antonio Eduardo Nachura, Roberto Abad and Jose Mendoza.

"There is no excuse for inefficiency in the performance of judicial duties and functions. The position of judge exacts nothing less than faithful observance of the law and the Constitution in the discharge of official duties," the justices said.

Results of the OCA audit of Ventil's court showed that the judge failed to hand down his decision within the 90-day requirementary period on 35 cases submitted for resolution.

The OCA audit revealed that 247 cases had been "dormant for a considerable length of time" in Ventil's sala when he reached the mandatory retirement age of 70 on Aug. 8, 2007.

The OCA also found that Ventil did not maintain an organized record of cases assigned to him.

"The extent was being followed to facilitate the monitoring of the status of cases," the OCA said.

Inquirer fun run draws thousands for worthy cause

By Tina G. Santos

DIFFERENT people have different reasons for running.

Some run simply for the joy of it, others to keep fit or lose weight, while some run to fund-with family and friends.

Elle Go had another reason for joining, along with her husband and four children, the Philippine Daily Inquirer's anniversary fun run "25 for 25" at Bonifacio Global City in Taguig on Sunday.

It was the good cause the fun run was for that was reason enough for her family to participate, Go said.

Race proceeds will go to the Inquirer Sembay Foundation, the children of the Maguindanao massacre victims, and Gifts and Graces Foundation.

"We took our children (aged 10 to 17) here so for them are how blessed they are in life. They have the things that they need and they go to school. See the others, particularly the beneficiaries of this event," Go said.

Cornie Rabaguirn of Inquirer corporate affairs said the fun run was opened to the public to garner more support for the three beneficiaries, each of which will receive P25,000.

According to Rabaguirn, the 25 guest aims to provide scholarships for 25 school-age children of the journalists who were killed in the Nov. 23, 2009, Maguindanao massacre.

"These children lost their mothers and fathers who were the sole breadwinners of their families," Rabaguirn said.

On the other hand, the Inquirer Sembay Foundation has been helping children, nowadays in particular, finish school for the past several years.

The foundation has been handing out monthly stipends to deserving grade school and high school students since 1993, benefiting close to 200 scholars.

In 1996, the foundation started offering college scholarships to seven Inquirer-awarded grantees in deserving students from all over the country.

Gifts and Graces Foundation helps groups engaged in livelihood programs. These include disadvantaged communities, urban poor residents, and people with disabilities.

Registration in preparation's fun run competed for cash prizes in the 5K, 3K, 10K and 25K/5km main relay.

The festivities kicked off with welcome remarks by Inquirer board chair Marixi Prieto.

Inquirer employees and executives, including president Sandy Prieto, as well as personalities like party-list Rep. Teddy Casiño, participated in the run.

In all, there were over 3,000 runners.

The winners of the Inquirer fun run who received cash and gift items were: 5K (Plastered, Mary Anne Jo) 1st Cruz (1st), Janette Aguirre (2nd), Isabel Bacon (3rd); 3K (Male): Xiadrert Germinera (1st), Rand Larson (2nd), Ronald Salgado (3rd); 3K (Female): Jho-an Banning (1st), Mirasol Abad (2nd), Annette Lamelao (3rd);

10K (Men): Daniel Espinosa Arango (1st), Christopher Ellaz (2nd), Alejandro Mison (3rd); 10K (Women): Mercedita Feraboli (1st), Mina Ann Barcena (2nd), Luisa Ramos (3rd); 10K (Men): Josphat Elpidial Tio (1st), Rene Herrera (2nd), Willy Tanai (3rd); 25K (Relay): Team Brooke (1st), Powerpuff Stan (2nd), Inet Lane Runners (3rd).

Newest sultan of Sulu causes stir in Malaysia

By Jerome Aning

THE "CORONATION" of a new claimant to the Sultanate of Sulu and the establishment of an "interim government" by agents of wan Malaysia and southern Philippines is reportedly causing a stir in Malaysia.

Diplomatic sources told the Inquirer that the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) was expecting an inquiry from the Malaysian embassy about the identity of Dato Mohammad Akjan bin Dato Ali Kiram Jamalul Kiram, who proclaimed himself as Sultan of Sulu and Sabah on Feb. 21 in Kampung Likas, Kota Kinabalu.

"In fact, we've heard that there have been informal inquiries by agents of Kuala Lumpur and the Sabah state government about the identity of Akjan.

They want to know if his supporters came from the Philippines," said the DFA official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the matter.

Unlike other claimants to the sultanate, Akjan claims to be a Malaysian citizen. He recently received an award as the founding party United Bukas Nasional Organization. He is said to be a businessman involved in construction, transportation and motor oil distribution.

"This is a unique situation, because he'll be the only Malaysian claimant. However, there's a possibility that he has both Malaysian and Philippine citizenship," added the source.

The "prime minister" of the "interim government," Tarsa Abi Ahmad Jalkarnain, issued a statement saying that Akjan became Sulu's 33rd sultan after taking his oath in front of 68 artists, including "senior officials" of the sultanate. Among the officials were two "assistant deputy prime ministers"—one for Tawi-Tawi and the other for west Malaysia.

Akjan was quoted as saying in his acceptance speech that he would restore the independence of the sultanate and reverse control of its natural resources to its inhabitants.

ABS, for its part, demanded that "foreign" governments withdraw from the territories claimed by the sultanate, which include Sulu, Sabah, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, the Zamboanga Peninsula, Palawan and the Spratlys.

He was also quoted as saying that he was "resolving legal documents to be filed with the United Nations."

P-Noy was only setting record straight--Palace

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT Aquino is not on the warpath but only wanted to set the record straight regarding the events that toppled the Marcos dictatorship and installed his late mother, Corazon Aquino, in the presidency in 1986.

That was how Mr. Aquino's deputy spokesperson, Abigail Valte, explained yesterday the President's admonition to the Marcoses during the celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of Edsa I last week.

Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. had claimed that the country would have been as prosperous as Singapore had Ms. Cojuangco had been crowned by a popular uprising in 1986.

Asked on government radio dzRB why Mr. Aquino seemed to be attacking the Marcoses, Valte pointed out that the President did say that everyone was entitled to their opinion about what happened in 1986.

"However, he felt compelled to set the record straight on what Senator Marcos said, that the Philippines could have been a Singapore by now," she said.

Valte acknowledged that it could not be avoided that others would have a different opinion about the first Edsa people power uprising.

"But probably we should also think that the freedoms we have today to large part we owe to what people did in 1986 and I think we should be thankful and reflect on this," she said.

The other day Mr. Aquino said that he did not believe that the Philippines would have become another Singapore "had we stayed the course with Marcos."

"Were it not for Edsa, we probably would have become another Libya. You don't even have to make eye-word for it. Just like people who were here," the President said on Saturday at a ceremony honoring people who had struggled against the Marcos regime.

The President, meanwhile, has appointed Ahmad "Z Fangalisan and Timotio Sy-Coson, daughter of tycoon Henry Sy, as members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Advisory Council (Asac).

Also appointed to Asac was Jay V. Tesalina. Sabi nga yesterday Asac is under the Department of Foreign Affairs.

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Later, in 1958, Jose Concepcion, Sr. became President of Edward J. Nell – a large foreign-owned enterprise in the Philippines.

At age 60, when many would rather retire, he went on to embark on his vision of establishing an integrated air conditioning plant in Asia.

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RAUL JOSEPH A. CONCEPCION
President & CEO
Concepcion-Carrier Air-conditioning Company

RAUL T. CONCEPCION
Chairman
Concepcion Group of Companies

Alien registration deadline Tuesday

THE BUREAU of Immigration yesterday reminded all resident foreign nationals in the country they have only until tomorrow (March 1) to make their annual report to the bureau or be considered an (especially) documented alien.

If officer in charge Ronaldo Ledesma said there will be no deadline extension because the law does not allow it.

"The Alien Registration Act of 1950 expressly provides that foreigners must report to the bureau within the first 60 days of every calendar year," Ledesma said in a statement.

He warned that those who fail to register on time will be meted out administrative fines and/or imprisonment at the discretion of the BI commissioner.

If alien registrant director Fred Limlin Alberto said aliens who hold immigrant or nonimmigrant visa must make the annual report, either at the BI main office in Intramuros, Manila, or any office throughout the country. The annual report fee is P500 with a P30 legal research fee.

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THE GOVERNMENT should allow independent assessment to monitor its conditional cash transfer (CCT) program for indigents, which could be vulnerable to corruption, a United Nations official said.

Jacob Cook, director of the UN International Institute for Social Development, said their studies of similar programs in South America and Africa showed that CCT programs can help uplift people from poverty, but it can also be a source of corruption at the local level.

"Obviously, you need a strong administrative system to monitor such programs give a lot of discretion to local officials," Cook said in a recent interview with the Inquirer.

He suggested that school-party association or civil society groups be tasked to do the administration of the CCT program so that beneficiaries have a venue to air their grievances or make recommendations, and problems can be solved without politicking. "Those kinds of mechanisms need to be in place," she said.

Under the Philippine CCT program, the Department of Social Welfare and Development will give cash grants up to P1,400 a month to poor families that keep their children in school and bring them to health centers for regular checkups.

Since the Philippines is fairly new to the CCT games, Cook suggested the government strictly monitor the impact and the design of the program in the first few years of implementation.

Cook noted that CCT programs had significant impact by uplifting people from extreme poverty amid fears that there was "very little evidence" that CCT schemes promoted dependency by the poor.

"Social protection programs have a clear positive impact on poverty reduction in developing countries. Old-age poverty in Latin America has been reduced by between 20 and 50 percent through social transfers," she said, citing a study released last year.

In some places in Africa, CCT programs failed because the beneficiaries did not have access to good schools or health care. "Where it hasn't worked out is in places where there is a high level of poverty and low level of investment," she said.

Last year, the Aquino administration announced that it would continue the Arroyo-era CCT to help the poorest of the poor.

Called the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, it gives monthly cash grants to poor families (up to P900 for those with three or more children) if they keep their children in school. Additional cash (P300 a month) is given to parents who bring their children in health centers for checkups, vaccinations and deworming. Beneficiaries also attend family development sessions and pregnant mothers must undergo pre- and post-natal checkups.

Kristine C. Alave

Daughters of Charity
St. Louise de Marillac Educational System

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR HEIDI LLOCE-MENDOZA

Mrs. Heidi Lloce-Mendoza has absolutely placed her life, her family and career at great risk! We salute her fearlessness and conviction that the truth must prevail! We are immensely proud that Mrs. Heidi Lloce-Mendoza lives Christian and Vincentian values, having been trained and educated in a Catholic educational institution.

Mrs. Heidi Lloce-Mendoza obtained her degree of Bachelor of Science in Commerce, major in Accounting (class 1983) from Sacred Heart College, Lucena City – a dean's lister. In the school yearbook "If she stated this question: "Anyone who offers himself in service endures the pain of giving oneself." This is now unquestionably manifested in her courageous exposé on corruption in the military with grave consequences on her life.

THE DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY – ST. LOUISE DE MARILLAC EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, OWNED/MANAGED HOSPITALS, SOCIAL SERVICES INSTITUTIONS AND PARTNER COMMUNITIES DECLARE THEIR TRUST, CONFIDENCE AND FULL SUPPORT TO MRS. HEIDI LLOCE-MENDOZA, FORMER COA AUDITOR, FOR HER BRAVERY, HONESTY AND INTEGRITY IN PURSUING HER TESTIMONY ON THE PLUNDER CASE AGAINST FORMER MILITARY COMPTROLLER MAJOR GENERAL CARLOS GARCIA.

Like a true CORDIAN (name given to a student and graduate of SHC-Lucena), Heidi L. Mendoza has responded to the school's motto, "Tayuon Corale", Latin for "Lift up your Hearts." She has lifted up her heart, her gifts and her whole self in the service of her country like a true Cordian worthy of the name.

Following in the footsteps of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac, Vincentian Martyrs who died in defense of truth, honesty, justice and accountability, and of Hermana Fausta Labrador, Heroine of her alma mater and the local government declared *DUI NO LUCENSI*, MRS. HEIDI LLOCE-MENDOZA ADVANCES THE NATION'S MARCH ON THE PATH OF *PAGDADALISAY*, WHERE PURIFICATION EXTRACTS THE NOBLE SACRIFICE FROM FILIPINOS WHO TRULY WANT TO SERVE.

Mabuhay ka Heidi Lloce-Mendoza!

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Sta. Isabel College, Manila
Immaculate Heart of Mary College, Quezon City
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Colegio del Sagrado Corazon de Jesus, Iloilo City
Colegio de San Jose – Iaru, Iloilo City
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St. Louise de Marillac College of Bogo
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The good guys!

Quake-hit Christchurch prays for miracle

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand – Grieving residents prayed for the dead and missing Sunday as the leaders of churches clustered in New Zealand's devastating earthquake as rescuers, drenched in sweat, dug on in hopes of a miracle, searched through debris for possible survivors.

The number of confirmed fatalities from Tuesday's 6.3-magnitude quake has reached 147, but police fear more than 50 still listed as "unaccounted for" in dead in the middle of New Zealand's second largest city.

Asked if he expected a final toll of 300, disaster commander Steve Cliff replied: "Yes, and probably a little higher than that ultimately."

In the Philippines, the families of Maria Louise Amantillo and Valgate Rotueiro, both from Bohol province and both trapped in the rubble of the collapsed Canterbury Television (CTV) building, said they had not lost hope.

Late night, the Department of Foreign Affairs said it was making arrangements for those relatives of 11 missing Filipinos—not 14 as earlier reported by the DFA—to fly to Christchurch and "assist in the identification of the fatalities."

The DFA identified the missing Filipinos as Jesus Lloyd Rabelo, John Christopher Chan, Rose Mae Medallo, Emmabel Acosta, Jewel Francisco, Ivy Jane Cabrerizo, Maria Louise Amantillo, Valgate Rotueiro, Rhea Mae Sermillano, Erica Flora, and Lalaine Agana.

The DFA said it was "coordinating with the New Zealand Embassy in Manila for the issuance of visas, expediting the release of passports and other requirements for the relatives' trip."

No survivors have been found since—and all rescuers Wednesday.

After Sunday's service at Christchurch, people gathered by a table on the lawn of St. Barnabas church to have coffee, scones and banana bread, and to comfort those still struggling.

Megan Wake, 65, stood in the crowd, eyes brimming with tears.

"I just am struggling with where's God in all of this?" she said. "It's not shattered my faith, but it's hard to keep going."

Pastor coordinator Ken Stevart-Black said moments were "still in active rescue mode" and said listed "to look in every possible place for survivors," but that finding more survivors was increasingly unlikely.

"We are starting to move into the recovery stage of the operation," he said.

Only six bodies have been publicly identified.

World's prayers

Prime Minister John Key has said the quake, which destroyed the city's downtown, may be the country's "single most tragic" disaster.

"As our citizens make their way to church this Sunday they will be joined in prayer by millions around the world," Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker said. "For now we are truly comforted by the thoughts and prayers of so many."

When the quake ripped through the city on Tuesday, churches were among the hardest-hit buildings. Among those was the iconic Christchurch Cathedral, which suffered massive damage, its bell tower in ruins and 22 people presumably entrapped inside.

Still, many members of the largely Christian city found a way to hold Mass on Sunday.

'We will rise again'

Dee Philip Robinson tried to visibly comfort crowd outside St. Barnabas Church.

"This is not called Christchurch for nothing," he said, drawing similes from a cross. "We will rise again."

Members of New Zealand's Filipino-Australian community held a tradition ceremony at the ruined cathedral to bless spirits of the dead.

A sentimental team of more than 600 nations, including Japanese, Chinese and English teams, rallied upon the buildings, where floors pancaked on top of each other, brick by brick.

"What we're doing is removing the debris, we're looking for souls or spaces where there may be the living," said Fire rescue head Jim Stuart Black.

Clinging to hope

Louise Amantillo's mother, Linda, said her daughter had planned to reach her home to Bohol—on the day her quake struck.

She said Louise had told her the night before that they could talk more and for free if they chatted online.

The next day, Louise texted her mother two images saying she was pinned in the rubble and asking for help.

"It has been six days already and we have not heard from her after those text messages. But I still feel that she is alive and waiting for us to help her," Linda said in a phone interview from their home in Balamban town northeast of Cebu City.

Power of prayer

Linda said a nun guided to read her daughter's messages but the family was depending on God and the power of prayer.

A graduate of St. Paul University Iloilo, Louise, 25, is the second of four children of Linda and Alexander Amantillo. She left for New Zealand on May 16—just 12 days before the tragedy struck—hoping to find work as a nurse.

Her classmates and teachers have been holding daily Masses in pray for her safety and that of another classmate, Valgate Rotueiro, 23, from Jeta district, who is also missing.

Valgate's elder sister, Rosita Semerra Agpawinit, appealed to the Philippine and New Zealand governments to find ways to expedite the search and look for their loved ones.

"We feel that he is still alive and we have not stopped praying," Agpawinit said.

Mark Surla, a classmate of Louise, said after the earthquake shortly after the earthquake he she was already incoherent and the call was cut off shortly.

"Hulipi ayo ko. Hulipi ayo ko. (Help me, help me)" was all she said to Surla. *Report from Gerry D. Esplanada in Manila; Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas; and AP, Reuters and AFP*

Get ready for big one, folk warned

By Tonyo R. Salazar

BEFORE the big one strikes, we need to be whistle-blowers to save thousands of lives.

In the wake of the recent destructive New Zealand earthquake, urban planner and architect Felino A. Palafox Jr. has urged contractors, particularly those who rush on government projects, to oblige public schools, hospitals, roads, bridges and ports, to come out and blow the whistle on the projects to avoid a catastrophe.

"Contractors, consultants, suppliers and all those who may have knowledge of corruption on specific infrastructure, buildings and land development should report the truth like Heidi Mendoza and Cristinel Sabnan so the projects could be given priority in structural, geologic and hydrologic audits," Palafox told the business in a phone interview last Thursday, two days after the New Zealand temblor.

Edwin L. Bautista, professor emeritus at the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Illinois, at Chicago and senior visiting fellow of Earth System Science at Manila Observatory at the Ateneo de Manila, told the business:

"In particular, there is an overuse of sand and gravel from Bataan for concrete. It is cheap and OK to use for hollow blocks but these contain too much weak pumice, and thus is much too fragile to use for load-bearing elements like joists and bearing walls. Buildings will collapse as a result," Bautista said.

Palafox said he personally knew of some projects and structures that had become structurally unsound due to budget slash-ing.

Corruption kills more

He said countries with a history of rampant corruption suffered more fatalities in disasters, and that earthquakes of the same intensity resulted in fewer casualties in Japan or California than when they occurred in Haiti.

The Philippines, he said, could learn from the mistakes of Haiti and the best practices of Japan and California.

Palafox estimates that "of the two million buildings and residential structures in Metro Manila, dozen to unlicensed engineers, 15 percent would be vulnerable to earthquakes, liquefaction due to earthquakes, flooding and tsunamis in the seashores." That would run up to about 180,000 structures vulnerable to disaster.

"I pray to God I'm wrong," he said.

What you can do

In the meantime, Bautista urged Filipinos to "exercise common sense" and prepare themselves for the inevitable big one.

"Always keep a bottle of water, a whistle, a flashlight and a hammer near you in your workplace or in your room where you live. Be aware of where the fire extinguishers is, and know what part of the building is the safest to stay in."

Palafox advised every member of the household to learn where the keys to the padlocked fire grill or fire exit are.

Palafox was alarmed that many houses used near earthquake fault lines prone to liquefaction.

Bautista said family members should discuss what they would do in case of an earthquake.

"Every family's circumstances and vulnerability are unique, so each needs to own game plan. This is a poor country and the government has few resources, so it's a mistake to assume it could help everyone during a disaster. Therefore, every family must educate itself about earthquakes and plan accordingly," he said.

Bautista said it would also be wise to talk with neighboring families. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) has plenty of free educational materials.

Hazard maps

On July 7 last year, Palafox submitted 68 recommendations and a 10-year recommendation program on Emergency Preparedness Response to Disasters to the Aquino administration. One of the recommendations was the outlining and proper dissemination of "hazard maps" to pinpoint the most vulnerable areas.

He said ordinary citizens should know, for instance, what particular villages, developments and structures stand directly over or near fault lines. A hazard map should enumerate, for instance, what particular areas would be subjected to soil liquefaction.

He said that in more progressive countries, like Japan, tourists could go to a government office and get a free hazard map.

Dr. Renato Solidum Jr., Phivolcs director, told the business: "Definitely we need to produce better base maps so that we can put more details on the hazards."

He said Phivolcs "frames the hazards on the maps that are available."

He said that "base mapping is the issue, and that is not produced by our office." Solidum said one of the agency's programs is the mapping of the active faults in the Philippines beginning from the 1990s. Phivolcs also produces maps for liquefaction, for earthquake-triggered landslides and tsunami maps per province.

The Mumbai example

Palafox was a guest speaker in India in February 2010, at an international conference attended by "attending" Mumbai. He said that after the conference, the Indian government decided to demolish 32,000 buildings in Mumbai that were deemed vulnerable to disasters.

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Get ready for big one, folk warned

From page A1

"Today's democracy, I think, is an obscene an oxer, but I have to say they had the political will to demolish 52,000 buildings and re-plan Manila," said Tiglao.

Where there's an earthquake, there's a fire. Palatino said that after a destructive earthquake, fires usually follow. The biggest problems, however, would be the lack of water after the pipes would have been damaged, and the lack of firetrucks in informal, entire neighborhoods to stop the fire in its tracks.

Palatino said international standards dictate that every resident must have at least one square meter of space for himself in a common evacuation area.

"Do we have that in every barangay in our country? Metro Manila has 1.4 million daytime residents, do we have 14 million square meters of common open spaces as evacuation areas? And that evacuation area should include bathtubs, emergency clinics, emergency water supplies, emergency food supplies."

"We're losing most of our open spaces in Metro Manila. They are being built on, they're being given up and they're being squatted on."

House to probe 'overbilling' by telcos

AFTER ONE of their own was badly downed, the House of Representatives will look into the complaints of mobile phone users against their providers, particularly with regard to "overbilling."

Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone, vice chair of the committee on information and communications technology, said the panel will investigate the "overbilling" especially of those who send few text messages and send e-mail through their phones.

"It's about time Congress tackled this problem to protect consumers. Consumers have long been shortchanged by these companies and they have no recourse to see to it that they be refed," said Evardone in a text message to reporters.

The trigger apparently was the complaint of Dumpanga Rep. Acmad Mark Bong Go against Globe Telecom, which reportedly charged her P10,000 for brief texting services that were 20 to 25 times her normal phone bill.

"Congress should not hesitate to cancel the franchise of telecommunications firms found to be cobbling consumers through poor service," Evardone said.

Aside from mobile phone services, Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras said the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) should clamp down on the promotion and marketing campaigns of telecom firms that provide consumers the maximum possible spend rather than the minimum. Estate minimum guaranteed spend for downloading data from their services. Oil C. Icabandan jr.

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Boracay Russians' favorite resort

KALIBO CITY—In its 15th year, Boracay Russian tourists have given the dazzle-up to Boracay and the Philippines as among the top travel destinations for 2010.

Boracay and the Philippines were drawn of the 70 categories at the annual TravelAsia Star Award, an online poll among Russian travelers ranked by the travel web portal TravelAsia (http://www.travelasia.com/Editorial).

The award, was selected for first time, to honor travel in the Russian travel industry selects the top travel agencies, hotels, resorts, airlines, countries and sources of information based on the online votes of thousands of Russian travelers.

Boracay won at best resort in the Hotel/Resort Selection while Boracay competitor.

The Philippines won in the Discovery of the Year category.

Ukase (returning home from a business mission, many of them travelers kindly remember those whose services and hospitality not only satisfied but surpassed their expectations," according to TravelAsia.

It said the intention behind "many customers in choosing new travel destinations and travel industry experts who know how to help realize the travelers' dreams in the best possible way."

Russian tourist arrivals in Boracay have grown significantly in recent years, based on Department of Tourism data.

From a negligible number in 2007, Russian tourists numbered 3,000 in 2008 and 3,300 in 2009. Last year, 5,320 Russian tourists made them among the top 10 foreign visitors to the island. Nestor Pilar-gue Jr., Inquirer Visayas

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Madness

EDITORIALS

MUAMMAR GADHAFI seized power in Libya in the same year Ferdinand Marcos became the first Philippine president to be reelected (controversially) to the presidency. In the 42 years since, Gadhafi has systematically gutted every institution in Libya, substituting in their stead an eclectic mix (supported by oil revenues) of revolutionary populism and ruthless personal intervention. The official name of Gadhafi's Libya is the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, with the last term Gadhafi's own coinage, defined (in a briefing paper by the US Department of State news) "as a 'state of the masses' governed by the populace through local councils. In practice, Libya is an authoritarian state."

As authoritarian state without any viable center of potential alternative power. "Unlike neighboring Egypt and Tunisia, Libya lacks the steadying hand of a military to buttress a collapsing government," the New York Times wrote the other day. "It has no Parliament, no trade unions, no political parties, no civil society, no nongovernmental agencies. Its only strong ministry is the state-oil company."

Gadhafi is not even officially connected with the government, and is routinely referred to in government bulletins by such titles as "Brother Leader and Guide of the Revolution." There is no mistaking his hold on Libya in the past four decades however, and the extreme difficulty in which the anti-Gadhafi opposition finds itself today.

The spontaneous nature of the anti-Gadhafi revolt, which began only two weeks ago, after the 18-day Egyptian revolution deposed Hosni Mubarak (who became dictator in 1981, the same year Marcos ostensibly lifted martial law and ran for a third term as president), has meant that those opposed to Gadhafi have not had the opportunity to coalesce around unifying figures. In the first week or so of the uprising, the focus of unity seemed to be the old Libyan flag, used when the country gained independence in 1951. Only in the last couple of days has an attempt to form a united front against Gadhafi taken solid shape, through the still-assisted leadership of Mustafa Mohamed Abud al-Jeleil, once the country's justice minister.

Gadhafi himself has sworn to die like a martyr, has summoned both loyal tribes and paid mercenaries in Tripoli to mount a defense of the capital and has escalated the violence, ordering for instance that firearms be provided to local civilians and that snipers continue to fire at protesters.

The possibility of yet another powerful people power uprising knocking down yet another authoritarian regime has faded; instead, Libyans face the specter of prolonged civil war.

For this unfortunate state of affairs, Gadhafi has only himself to blame. Addiction to absolute power is a form of insanity; by ordering his own guns for hire to fire on his own people, Gadhafi gives all of us incontrovertible proof of the madness that has him in its grip.

Running like mad

IT TOOK the national government nine time to get its act together on the crisis in Libya, an oil-rich country with around 26,000 Filipinos working on contract. Part of the reason must be laid at the door of the political arrangement that allowed (or forced) the Aquino administration to keep Alberto Romulo at the Department of Foreign Affairs in a holdover capacity. For proof, consider what the DFA did after Alberto del Rosario, former ambassador to Washington, was named acting foreign secretary late last week. It sprang into action.

From Del Rosario fell compelled to travel to Tunisia, to directly oversee the repatriation efforts aimed at bringing about 13,000 workers home posthaste. This is not what we would normally expect a foreign secretary to do, but in large part because of the landslide that motivated the DFA in the last several months, the situation had become decidedly not normal.

According to the Department of Labor and Employment, some 1,800 workers have already exited Libya; according to the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, about 7,000 workers are expected to be repatriated "in the next couple of days."

We realize that this is still only a fraction of the number of OFWs at risk in Libya, and that much work remains to be done in what is a complicated and load-get-constrained humanitarian operation, but we are encouraged by the results of the last few days and pray with the rest of the nation, that all of our OFWs at risk eventually, and safely, find their way home.

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A limit on interest rates for credit card holders?

PRO BONO BOLO we believe in the accusation that Justice Antonio Carpio serving second role at Supreme Court justices to acquit Hubert Webb, et al., of the Vizconde massacre? Should it be Lucy Vicente, the grieving husband and father who made the accusation, and said later it was Chief Justice Renato Corona who gave him the information? Should it be Chief Justice Corona who denied hearing given the information to Roseanne?

Should it be Senate Governor, president of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC), who said he was with Mercedes when C.J. Carpio gave the information? Should it be Senator Joel Villanueva, the former executive secretary to the Court for meetings and Bond POSCORP?

Should it be Justice Fernando Tupacis of the People's Movement for Justice who said in a press release that Carpio's "conduct is morally wrong" "more grave to the alleged offense of Corona in accordance follow justices to vote for the acquittal of Gloria Webb" and has to answered and that Carpio may the "point man" in this effort? Rojas-Dela Rosa said he might have to "consider other who he should not be chief for meetings.

Who should we believe? It's one man's word against another. There is always the comedy to resort like Erap.

Let's look at it one more time. The Court, which investigated the case, said in its Feb. 15, 2011 resolution: "Secondly, Justice Carpio merely asked not influenced any of the colleagues to vote for the acquittal of Webb, et al. Thirdly, there is only one of Justice Carpio who testified that he was not influenced any of the accused." In short, all the high court justices who voted, whether for or against the accused, are saying that Carpio never influenced them to vote for the acquittal of Webb.

Then, there is only one of Justice Carpio who testified that he was not influenced any of the colleagues to vote for the acquittal of Webb.

Then, there is only one of Justice Carpio who testified that he was not influenced any of the colleagues to vote for the acquittal of Webb.

Still on the Supreme Court, Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas of Ilocos Norte, in a speech in the House of Representatives, accused the Supreme Court of treading the temporary restraining order against the impeachment of Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez even before the justices read the lawyer's petition. He later said that after reading the decision of the Court lifting the TRO, especially the controversial opinion of Justice Carpio, he was "startled by the revelations" the latter made.

Fariñas quoted Carpio (this is from the minutes of the House): "The following day, during the en banc meeting started, of September 14, 2010, over the objections of Justices Carpio, Carpio-Morales and Brion who wanted for time to read the petition, the majority of this court voted to issue a status quo ante order suspending the impeachment proceedings against petitioner.

"The petition with 40 petitioners for injunction ballot was filed at 9:01 a.m. on Sept. 15, 2010. I received a copy of the petition only in the afternoon of Sept. 14, 2010," with emphasis, "after the en banc meeting session of that day."

"The petition consists of 40 pages, excluding the annexes. All the justices should have been given time, at least an hour or two, as in the practice in such urgent cases, to read the petition before voting on the issue. Instead, the status quo ante order. Unfortunately, this was not done."

What was the one effect of this status quo ante order? It was issued on Sept. 14, 2010, but Pres. P-Noy was killed by the Supreme Court, which said that the new of the House are not unconstitutional. In other words, the high court decided "to join the fray in a manner which is the exclusive privilege of the House, took five months to stop the proceedings of this assembly only to say 'Hoy ano ewan ngalit all along,' Fariñas said.

He then stated for the House to "look at the antecedents of the Court" and threatened to file impeachment proceedings against the justices who voted to issue the status quo ante order.

* * *

There are pending bills in Congress calling for a cap on interest rates charged by credit card issuers to cardholders who opt for installment payments of their billings. The credit card issuers are charging too much, the bills' authors said.

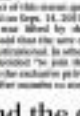
The proposed bills seek to limit as one person calculates the interest rate to be done paying on installment.

Let us look at the experience in other countries. In the United States, the proposals to cap the credit card interest rate have been considered over the last two decades by Congress but were opposed by the lawmakers. There is no interest cap in the US. In Japan, after increasing rate settings in 2006, there was a decline by the credit card interest rate. Recently, Puerto Rico's rate is outrageous, especially among small business owners.

Here, during a hearing of the House committee on banks and financial intermediaries, Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla of the Bangko Sentral said that it would be better for cardholders if the market and competition among banks and card issuers would determine the rate. Espenilla testified that people pay higher interest rates if they were to the interest rates like the owners.

Espenilla disclosed that a total of 6.7 million credit cards have been issued. This does not include debit cards like the initial number of cardholders, however. Some Filipinos using credit cards, he said, have two or more cards. Credit card holders are estimated to be close to four million. Complaints from them is 0.1 percent of the cards. Only 1.5 percent default on their payments. This shows the diligence of Filipinos in paying their debts. Now, is that an indication of the acceptability of the interest rates imposed by credit card issuers? And is that a justification for the high interest rates?

The power and the glory



THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

FIDEL RAMOS had some very interesting comments last week. Referring to the Edsa uprising that led to the uprisings that were taking place in Libya, Bahrain, Algeria and Yemen, he said, "Why is their people power bloody? Why is it protracted? What did we have in 1986 that they don't have?... They may have a president, a cabinet, a wing and a life of succession. But they're losing on one point: the military is not with it in the political and military ranks, when a battalion decides to join the people in the streets."

"When practically most if the military rebel," Ramos said.

What's wrong with that proposition? Two things.

One, it suggests that the emergence of the "military rebel" turns the tide of battle, or of war, by giving the camp opposing the rebel regime an extra supreme strength. Or it turns the people opposing that rule, the "people in the streets," a protective umbrella. The picture it paints is that of the military rebels telling the rebel "Relax, mga pseudo, dito na tayo. Kami pa po ang mabubuwis sa mga bala ninyo." They are under our protection.

That wasn't quite what happened in Edsa. Juan Ponce Enrile and his RAM group/gets, who conceived the idea of "hope over bullet" up in Camp Aguinaldo after their plot was discovered by Marcos, weren't quite in a position to protect anyone, let alone themselves. Not one their position nearly impressed when Ramos joined them, forming the local version of the alliance of The Two Enemies, in this case The Two Camps. Marcos and Ribbon Ver continued to have the superior strength, the might of arms, the capacity to annihilate them.

The only thing that saved them from annihilation was the people coming out to protect them. Brat Aquino and Jaime Cardinal Sin issued the imminent of course, but they merely summoned a call that was coming from the pit of the nation, from the bowels of the people. The storming on Edsa had been spontaneous. What it had the people's will without about it. Which drove Brat Laude to turn to ground yet another call that drove the Real nail in Marcos' coffin: "Go, and we clearly."

At the very least, what made this country's People Power itself and therefore was not a thing-splitting from the military but historic-splitting from its past support to Marcos. At the very least, what made this country's People Power swift and bloodless was not the military turning rebellious but the military turning outrageous.

Two, Ramos seems to suggest that the reason to People Power has or its opposite. What did we have in 1972 that other countries which remained democratic did not? We had martial law. In precipitous Ramos: "When you make a decision to declare a state of martial law, the initial one is for the military as a whole to split from its traditional role of upholding civilian rule and turn rogue. What you really need to for the military as a whole to not tolerate direct attacks or unauthorized use by its mission to crush the people in the streets."

"When you need is the protective soldier."

Ramos' proposition glosses over the entire record of the military throughout the long years of martial law, in which it was the martial law with the baptismal waters of Edsa. It makes the military look like a benign force, or at least a professional organization consisting of career generals who in some point either-slowly or mercurially get to be shocked by the unprofessional conduct of their commander in chief they were against him. That doesn't just wrong history, that scorches it.

Let me forget. Ramos was one of the so-called "Nasty 32," the heads of the various branches of the military that conspired with Marcos to ensure martial law. Enrile was one of the principal architects. There was nothing professional about the role of the protected commanders in the movement, which only began to turn progressive today look like a high school prank. There was nothing benign about the rule of the generals in the capital, which makes even Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's generals look positively enlightened.

At the very least, what's arguably about the supposition that the military is schizoid or it, is one right arm of People Power is that it rewards, any citizen resisting—a favorite pastime in this country, everyone gets to be the center of history. It belies the fact that before the military became the right arm of People Power for one brief moment, it was the right arm of terror. Hard rule for an unreasonable time. In quite the same way that Marcos' cavalry said Marcos was and not dreadful, his government had been rolling him for 14 years or was his people down and one down down unrecoverably.

At the very least, what's arguably about it is that it is the military that's doing the turning it has the right to rule after the overturn of People Power. Or at least it has the right to dictate the terms of the new rule. It is at least to Samar eternal credit that he was not affiliated by that delusion. For fairly sure, the RAM was attempting one coup after another against the new, person People Power the media explain Marcos.

What practically need for People Power to be swift, though not necessarily bloodless—there is more any real appearance of that—is to maintain the unity of the opposition. In a country sufficiently rotted to rule everything, a minority who has had enough is will take no more. Defying the tanks for the sake of the children. You are not of part of the outcome of that defiance. Looking back, Marcos might look like he were bad any cheese sandwich to flee. Looking forward, it took anger and courage, the supervisor of hell and the glimpse of heaven, to do what the people did 25 years ago.

The people have always extolled the power. Unbelievably, then and now, others have always found the glory.

Remembering Edsa I

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

There was never a moment, starting on Sept. 21, 1972, when the nation was not moving toward Edsa

FEB. 25 is a day for recalling February 1986 and the short time preceded it. My own thoughts about what transpired have not changed.

"There is a tendency to attribute the events of February to the events of the four days of February 1986. Those days will forever be remembered as a shining moment in a people's history, but the four days do not tell all. Edsa was but a part of a process, albeit the most memorable link for the interplay of its memories and its dramatically fascinating and infectious spontaneity. But the long process of which it was a part includes both the struggles that precipitated the imposition of martial law as well as the struggles during the long martial night that followed.

"There was never a moment, starting on Sept. 21, 1972, when the nation was not moving toward Edsa. The underground struggle, the bloody encounters, the groans of torture victims, the pain-plastered faces of mothers, both political and religious, the silent morning of lament by contemplative nuns, the voice of the bishops who dared to challenge under the most adverse circumstances and, yes, even the subdominant with the enemy—each in its own way contributed to the sustenance of rebirth. In the end, Divine Providence, which the Filipino people had thus humbly invoked in its 1935 Constitution, put the pieces together and let them explode into the celebration that was Edsa.

"Many millions in the course of 20 years ago, [under] a dictator [President's] crippling weapon for the first dissembled of the rebel. Feeling that he had the whole nation in his grip, the dictator ordained that Corazon Aquino [and] all challengers to a 'snap election.' This was November 1985. The events that followed brought out a multiplicity of human traits that will be studied and have achieved the truth about.

"Then, unanticipated hopefully manifested their unanimous judgment in favor of my presidential candidates supported by all. They anointed a leader with unsurpassed in governance, decisively rounded by the 'wise' as seeking storm, to become the leader! Unanimous human abilities and soldiers, bound together by the fundamental of the same ancestry and of the same people, is when to redeemed as subduing, symbolic of a people determined to join hands and work for a new future."

Today the latter is sometimes heard: that nothing has really changed since 1986. What a waste Edsa was. That obviously is not true.

The government structure under the 1987 Constitution, though by no means perfect, is better than the government structure under the 1973 Constitution. Imperfect as it is as a process against the known Constitution, its most ways that one is truly democratic.

Congress today is structurally almost the same as that of the 1935 Constitution even if, in terms of the quality of membership, it suffers by comparison with those of the 1935 Constitution. But at least it is different from the Batasang/Batasan.

As in the 1935 Constitution, the office of President is one free from the compulsion toward unitary government. Local governments are not mere agencies of the national government, unfortunately too yet nationwide but hitherto only here and there. But I also see corruption and popular indifference of a people lulled by economic and technological advances as major obstacles to progress. In the end, they are the ones to be the electorate but people get the governments they deserve. How and evolution be awakened to the realization that the future depends not on government but on all of us!

To inspire and to lead, role of new AFP chief

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

In a few days, President Aquino shall be making the most important appointment in his eight-month presidency: AFP Chief of Staff General Ricardo David will be retiring after less than a year in office. He leaves as a true citizen the dismal rooms of the Philippines is in deep trouble as revelations of internal greed and corruption continue to surface and bring dishonor to the armed forces.

What kind of individual should President Aquino choose to lead the armed services in this critical time for the country?

Do we need a hard-driving combat operator in the mold of Gen. Douglas MacArthur? Or, maybe a flamboyant, brilliant commander like Gen. Douglas MacArthur?

Or, do we need someone more in the mold of a Gen. Dwight Eisenhower who, before he received the four stars of a full general, had never commanded as much as a platoon in battle?

John McCain tells a story about Eisenhower in his book "Character is Destiny" He relates, when Eisenhower was appointed Supreme Commander, Allied Forces in Europe, he was given a lavishly furnished mansion as a fashionable address. He feared it and chose for his quarters a two-bedroom home in the suburbs of London, of which, he became fond. Eisenhower surrounded himself with people who could help him in the execution of Europe.

"Several years later, General Eisenhower was elected President of the United States. Many well-intentioned, sophisticated Americans thought him to be poorly qualified for the job and did not hesitate to express their views in caustic and often jaundiced language. They mocked him for it but he didn't answer in kind. They think I'm stupid, but bottom," he remarked. He wasn't stupid, he was one of those, simple, modest, hard-working, sincere."

Although he achieved greater fame as the 34th President of the United States, Eisenhower would have been satisfied to be remembered as a good soldier.

Perhaps the qualities we need in the new AFP Chief of Staff are simplicity, modesty, a work ethic that brings out the best in his subordinates and, above all, a sense of decency.

Closer to home, the name of Brig. Gen. Florencio B Lim comes to mind.

Florencio Lim was born in Calamba, Laguna, on Feb. 26, 1888. Last Thursday was the 123rd birth anniversary of the son of the first Filipino to enter West Point, graduating with the Class of 1916, placing No. 93 out of 167 in the graduation order of merit. At West Point, he was known as "The Gentleman." perhaps because of his dark skin, limited command of English and his colonial origins.

"In Inquiry And In Land" is a compilation of Gen. Lim's narrative in his wife Pilar Hidalgo-Lim, and his sons Roberto and Leandro who were at school in the United States. They covered a period from 1936 to 1943. I have chosen a few lines from the letters to share with the readers of the most, qualities that are needed by the incoming AFP chief of staff. If he is to restore the honor and dignity of the Armed Forces. I have also included some of his letters to Maj. Gen. Basilio Valdes, the chief of staff and his commander in the Philippine Army.

Letter to Bobby Aug. 17, 1938:

"Congressman on my work in the office as an officer of the Philippine Army are a passing pleasure which satisfies the vanity of my human being. But in me the intellectual of the universe, and deep in my heart, I am not satisfied with any amount of money can give. This one might call it the satisfaction you get for pay and accomplish your own people and country. ... It is my duty to guide you in the right manner of life. But the most important of all is that I love a name that my posterity may be proud of."

Letter to Bobby Mar. 18, 1939:

"I do not want to be unhappy for wanting honor in the Philippine Army. The one that cannot my blood pressure more than of 11 Cabrera which was brought to my attention. Lt. Cabrera was dumped and sentenced of three specifications: forgery, obtaining money from the government falsely and false official statements. He was sentenced to be dismissed from the service and to suffer confinement at hard labor for the period of two years. ... Now my duty as commander is to safeguard the honor of the Army. And as the Chief of Staff advises this case and Cabrera will be dismissed from the service."

Letter to Leandro and Bobby Sept. 27, 1939:

"I determined during a mission why I established my reputation as one of honor. Time to time I have to attack a company among the officers and I do not want to be one of them by saying Image. Second, in that time in my looking back up with someone with her fifty-sixty group of trained officers to command them. Third, in that we are acquiring obedience recognize. With without capitalize. I have to be very careful in the selection of the first two. On the third one, we were half-convinced."

Letter to Leandro and Bobby, Jan. 22, 1940 (instead of last resignation) being accepted, Lim was appointed Deputy Chief of Staff):

"I deliberately had taken my side at last, and on one appropriation so that we do not squander money in the purchase of obsolete weapons and equipment. However, it is never meaning be promised to give us the eager order but to accumulate in order to purchase modern arms and equipment."

Letter to Maj. Gen. Basilio Valdes, April 30, 1940:

"I am sorry to say that I am not in a state of clear character, so well as discipline and efficiency, is the backbone of an Army for national is, are small positions working has a subtle attack will fail so to our best of mind. Our country as well as our President, expects you and me to be faithful to our trust as officers and men. Our country is in danger and we should not expect for the service if we do not carefully and courageously act with justice on each and every case that comes before us." He must build not alone a foundation which instills confidence as a result of the integrity of our decisions but we have to make sure that the moral fabric of the Army from top to the ranks people have a right to expect no slack. While some of the best friends I have in public life are politicians, nevertheless, should anyone come to me and attempt to influence my decision with a case before me, and thereby attempt to debase justice ... I must say that I would tell that person frankly that my duty as my conscience dictates me duty can muster to take regardless of circumstances."

Last letter to MG. Pilar Hidalgo-Lim, Feb. 25, 1942:

Lim describes rather harsh actions along his Divisional operations in Abucay, Bataan, their wives.

"The divisions are not proper to maintain ... with all this talk I don't want to be a party to any of these and related lists. They are the ones who did it all. Mine is only to laugher and to lead them. Their satisfaction is mine to share."

Sen. Nicanor Lim was captured by the Japanese in 1944 and tortured and executed in their retreat. His remains were never found.

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Tales of the blooper buster

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Nonette Matejo

IS IT a plane?" Is it a speeding bullet? No, it's a "pasalubong."

Remember three-year-old Mae Roxas, conducting an office-to-office conference, complete with a generous facetiousness at incoherence and—mimicking her timid kiss on the cheek, a visitor in tatters, the grieving mirage of his magnificent obsession—Mae-Mae, Bombing Pebete. Sir must not put on the face now, that is.

So what's wrong with this picture?

In what capacity was Mae Roxas accorded this set-up that is the prerogative only of the President's spokesperson, Cabinet Secretary, etc., and not the Senate's Assistant Floor Vice President or Senator Binay, who came back from a comparatively calm mid-Asia comparatively successful mission, was merely entertained by TV reporters and photo-journalists on radio program duos.

Well, Mae Roxas, despite her overtime kisses, has been designated by the President as the "time-in-the-shower-in-a-private-capacity"

Of course, considering the many bloopers that have befallen his administration almost since their Oath-Taking, the President could not afford to discover very badly, a dual-phenomenon who can shoot down shots as they come, and skilled enough not to shoot himself on the foot, or in the mouth. But Mae Roxas?

Is this an admission by the President that there is no one capable enough to wrestle down among his close-in circle of trouble makers?

Still, why should we be surprised? President Aquino did announce right in the beginning (when everything was still rosy) that he would not shoot down anybody, not even, and skilled enough not to shoot himself on the foot, or in the mouth. But Mae Roxas?

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In what administration by the President does

Why tolerate bad politicos?

LETTERS

POLITICS, MORE popularly known in the context as public service, is certainly all about self-service. A politician almost has zero reasons for his every political act, namely, the good reason and the real reason. His good reason is, of course, public service. His bad reason is self-service. That is why he campaigns endlessly and spends so much to get himself elected into office, even as he pleads—sometimes by coercion—with the poor majority of his constituency to allow him to serve them.

Call that his excuse in life or his legacy to the family or whatever, but a politician almost always resists to project himself as a savior to the poor. And dare to why the poor are always with us.

The common problems, however, with these politicians is that once they are elected to office, they eventually develop and adopt a sense of personal power and entitlement to their office and even their territorial jurisdiction, that they become resistant to relinquish the same. In fact, they tend to believe as if they own their public office.

Worse still, many of them make and run for their political offices as a "family affair" or enterprise subject to hereditary succession.

But worst of all, the dominant tolerance is why!

—ARIEL T. CONCEPCION, Quezon City
tiger1111@yahoo.com

Letter-writer's blasphemous misreading of Christ's injunction

HALFSE THE author of the Feb. 25 letter titled "Peace is compulsory study in schools." I am proud to be a Catholic, he claims. "We are educated not to love our enemies but we love only a divinity up there, especially by being corrupt against one to rebel's death here."

But Christ said, "I came that they might have life and have it to the full." He has, moreover, simple injunction is to love our neighbor (much contrary) as he loved us. "And may you be one as my Father and I are one." The letter-writer's "misunderstanding" of a Christian injunction is a blasphemy.

The world is indeed full of difficulties, as demonstrated by Christ himself with his crucifixion, but we add to the suffering by ignoring the injunction of love in our daily life. It has no will force and does not create any heroes or hell by the way we live in this world. There are no miserable laws of cause and effect ...we are, however, in many ways our own Keeper, will always have consequences.

This line from the New Testament is of

—ISABEL S. GARCIA, M.D.
viewsgarcia@yahoo.com

A transparent, accountable appointment

LAST FEB. 11, President Aquino, through Presidential Spokesman Edwin Lacierda, underscored the importance of appointing a Commission on Audit chair with integrity and a clean track record. He could not agree more. However, the appointment process is as important as the person being appointed.

Recent revelations by former COA assistant Rizal Glendoza at the congressional hearings on the Garcia plea-bargain highlighted the need for reforms in the audit agency. As President Aquino insists, reforms start from the top.

Here times the ordinances of Ariano Oliveros as Ombudsman in 2002, the Transparency and Accountability Network has been pushing for an open and competitive process for appointments to the Judiciary, constitutional commissions, such as the Ombudsman, the Supreme Court, the Commission on Elections, the Civil Service Commission and the COA. Good appointments should happen by design, not by accident. The only way this can happen is if the appointments process is transparent and accountable.

We urge President Aquino, in the name of good governance, transparency and accountability, to conduct the search for the next COA chairman and for the two new Comelec commissioners through an open and competitive process.

Specifically, for appointments to these and other independent constitutional commissions, we urge the President to make public the short list of nominees and any nominal search committee that will screen the candidates, the set of criteria being used to evaluate nominees and the track record of the candidates or groups endorsing such candidates.

One of the biggest problems of the previous administration was the highly politicized process of appointments to independent institutions. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's last high-profile appointment, made in the waning days of her term, was arguably the most controversial: the appointment of Renato Corona as the chief justice of the Supreme Court. Midnight appointments and accountability in the process, her successor may be tempted down the same path unless there is a clear set of rules since the public will get what it rightfully deserves...new and renewed of integrity and competence appointed by way of an open and transparent process.

—VINCENT LAZATIN, Transparency and Accountability Network

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Stealthy promulgation of ruling questionable

THESE 11 enough reasons for us, the relatives and friends of the late Eugene A. Tan and his driver Eduardo Constantino, to assume that the events promulgation of the kidnapping and murder trial per People of the Philippines v. Dante Gil, et al. (TX-2005-04, TC-2005-04A and TC-2006-04), by Branch 10 of the Regional Trial Court of Cebu, Tagaytay City, is tainted and highly irregular.

The case had languished in the trial court for 15 years, mainly delayed a series dramatic legerdemain, a brilliant lawyer Inlandi, who had given Iloilo its one legal system. Just when another year would pass without any developments on the case, the court suddenly ordered, at last, Feb. 9, that the case would be promulgated on Feb. 16.

While we welcomed the news that justice would finally be served, we could not help but sense that something erroneous would happen. Our worst fears were soon confirmed. Despite overwhelming and six sight-testimonies admitted during the early years of the trial, the court dismissed their key testimonies for being hearsay and acquitted several of the accused, including the alleged masterminds. This surprisingly, only the newly re-appointed way was "saved of carrying out a crime that would have raised several levels or security ones.

The court's decision came as a shock and disappointment to us. In addition to the many irregularities in the proceedings, it was unusual that a single member of the press was allowed of the day the ruling was to be issued on the case, which routinely enjoyed enormous and sensational coverage by news outlets and media worldwide in November 2004.

The questionable haste in which our, the aggrieved party, were notified and the arranged "rush-rush" promulgation without the presence of media, truly begs the question: Who stood most to benefit from keeping the decision "quiet"?

The absence of media members during the once-invested stage of the political process can only be interpreted as an attempt to "skirt public opinion." The function of public opinion is not to interfere on a single accused but to contribute to creating a fairer and transparent system of accountability in this case, accountability in our justice system.

Seventeen years of waiting for justice for Eugene A. Tan from Commander had gone for naught. But we who have always believed in the justice system, we are forced now to rethink whether further recourse in this same system will only result in futility. The answer lies in the hands of the judiciary whose members we pray will remain unswayed by the influence of powerful individuals who undoubtedly make a mockery out of the Philippine justice system.

—EDUARDO A. TAN
(on behalf of the family and friends of the late Atty. Eugene A. Tan and Eddie Constantino)

Trillanes not a hero

COMRADE DC Quirot' Feb. 17 column ("Trillanes", rewritten her, wrote Trillanes' arrogant treatment of the late Sen. Angelo Reyes during a recent Senate hearing as "lolly and heroic." I don't know which measure of morality and ethics Dr. Quirot adheres to, but Trillanes' sarcastic "lolly" and "heroic" in naming Reyes during to one who the downright rude and incombustible remark that Reyes had "no reputation to protect."

Trillanes' mistake of Reyes came after former AFP chief of staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon did not send a subpoena to send call officer Reyes upon his retirement. Did Esperon offer any solid evidence except his say-so? He did not. And thereafter Trillanes pounced on Reyes with a string and self-serving tirade, preventing Reyes from speaking to his own defense against the unfounded and baseless accusations of Esperon.

In Dr. Quirot's sweet that Nidonis had been slapped with charges of 16 graves would be before the Office of the Ombudsman in the case of the Garcia plea-bargain. Ms. Nidonis's charges are plausible. And yes, going by Dr. Quirot' proof logic, Nidonis should now be hailed as a hero just because he spilled the beans on some of his superiors and newly named to take his own words back. Sure—for politicos! Last I checked, plausible is a non-liability offense.

Heroes served in the military and the civilian government for nearly half a century. That's why the government gave him full military honors when he was buried in the Libingan ng mga Bayani. Let's not demean—by association—the man by hailing as heroes those who no moment him to doubt.

—JONATHAN DE LEON,
jonathan.deleon03@gmail.com

'Last Airbender,' 'Sex and the City 2' cited for worst film achievements

LOS ANGELES—The actors fantasy "The Last Airbender"...about people who can command fire, air, water and earth...were voted the worst thing since the Razzie awards for Hollywood's worst film achievements of 2010.

"The Last Airbender" led Saturday's Razzies with five awards, among them worst picture, worst director and worst screenplay for M. Night Shyamalan.

The movie also received Razzies for worst supporting actor Jackson Rathbone, who was cited for both "The Last Airbender" and "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse") and for a special award, worst eye gouging misuse of 3-D.

Pro-Oscars

A spoof of the Academy Awards, the Razzies were announced the night before the Oscars, Hollywood's biggest party.

"Sex and the City 2" took three Razzies, including worst actress, a prize shared by current Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall, Kristin Davis and Cynthia Nixon, worst screen couple or ensemble for its entire cast, and worst prequel, remake, rip-off or sequel.

Ashton Kutcher was picked as worst actor for "Killers" and "Valentine's Day," while Jessica Alba took the Razzie as worst supporting actress for her 2010 releases, "The Killer Inside Me," "Little Fockers," "Machete" and "Valentine's Day."

Shyamalan has been on a downward spiral since the 1999 Oscar best picture contender "The Sixth Sense," which earned him directing and writing nominations as Hollywood's highest honors. He won Razzies as worst director and worst supporting actor for his 2006 fantasy flop "Lady in the Water."

Monsoon

Despite terrible reviews, "The Last Airbender" managed to find a decent audience, pulling in $300 million worldwide at the box office. Shyamalan adapted the movie from the animated TV series "Avatar: The Last Airbender."

He managed to take a cartoon property and make it even less likable by making it with real actors," said Razzies founder John Wilson. "Most people who like the show and who would include any 11-year-old son, based the movie, it made me want to scream more."

"The Last Airbender" was among the movies that critics knocked for cruddy, blurry 3-D images. The movie was shot in 2-D and converted to digital 3-D in each in on the extra few dollars theaters charge for 3-D screenings.

"They call it converted. Pic call it perverted," Wilson said. "The moviegoers you with the public and charge them that he and don't really deliver, eventually it's going to be like Lucy and Charlie Brown with the football. Fool me two times, I'm done."

Wilson said the characters of "Sex and the City 2" were getting too old to cavort the way they do, calling the movie "The Expired. Jaded," but with estrogen," referring to Sylvester Stallone's tale about aging action heroes. AP

On eve of Oscars, Fil-Am wins

From page A1

LIBATIQUE

ture "Winter's Bone," considered the front-runner with seven nods but which won in only two categories.

Huge smile

Miranda D. Mendez, the Filipino-American photographer who covered the awards held by the branch, told the Inquirer: "When Matthew walked into the press room after he won, he had this huge smile on his face. I came up to me, shook my hand, gave me a hug and said to me, 'We did it, man!' I replied, 'Take home the Oscar tomorrow.' He simply smiled and shook my hand again."

Libatique said Libatique was visibly ecstatic when "Black Swan" won in the other categories. In his category the director of photography beat Michael McDonough, "Winter's Bone," Adam Kimmel, "Never Let Me Go," Jody Lee Lipes, "Tiny Furniture" and Rasten Sarafian, "Greenberg."

Libatique said the trajectory by phone that his award example was unsure because the last time he won was in 2001.

"It took a long time for me to get back," he said. "The first award happened early in my career. So I don't take this recognition for granted." The filmmaker added that he loved Indie cinema and what it stood for, as well as the home. "I identify strongly with the independent filmmaking community," he said.

In his acceptance speech, he gave special thanks to his wife, Magda Gonzaga, who is also a cinematographer, and their two children.

At the Academy Awards, Libatique, 42, one of the youngest members of the American Society of Cinematographers (ASC), is competing against veterans—Roger Deakins ("True Grit"), Wally Pfister ("Inception"), Jeanne Cohen ("The King's Speech") and Jeff Cronenweth ("The Social Network").

On his chances at the Oscars, the low-key talent with impressive credits said: "I don't expect to win. I feel like I've already won, especially with the honor from the Independent Spirit awards."

He added that he might wear something with a touch of the Philippines or of the Filipino in him. But he stressed that he would make that decision on Sunday morning.

Born in Queens

Born in Queens, New York, Libatique has studied up major Met credits, including his two "Iron Man" movies directed by Jon Favreau. The cinematographer's collaboration with Aronofsky includes "The Wrestler," "Pi" and "Requiem," a short film from their American film institute graduate student days.

In an online poll conducted by American Cinematographer, the magazine of ASC, "Requiem..." was ranked one of the best short films from 1998 to 2008, alongside such award-winning movies as "Amelie," "American Beauty" and "City of God."

Libatique's most recent project is Fremont's "Gosford Park," which stars Harrison Ford and Daniel Craig, and is due out this year. His other credits include two films with Joel Schumacher, "Tigerland" and "Phone Booth," and three with Spike Lee—"Inside Man," "Miracle at St. Anna" and "She Hate Me."

Libatique, who is called Mario by friends and colleagues, began his career by shooting music videos with such artists as Tracy Chapman ("Give Me One Reason"), Moby, Ivy, Jimmy Eat World and 98 Degrees. He followed and shot Kobe Bryant during a day in the 2008 NBA playoffs for the documentary "Kobe Doin' Work." He also directs commercials between film projects.

Gritty world

In "Black Swan," a psychological thriller in which Portman portrays an obsessed ballerina, Libatique masterfully shoots the gritty world underneath the professional glam of ballet.

The film is considered by many the best collaboration so far between Libatique and Aronofsky, who said that "Black Swan" and "The Wrestler," for which Mickey Rourke got acting accolades, began as one movie.

In an earlier interview with the Inquirer, Aronofsky said that Libatique's DP supervisor helped in making "Black Swan," whose $13.5-million budget is four times cheaper compared with the budgets of their "Iron Man" movies.

"We didn't have the spotlight to some of the ballet scenes," the director said.

"You we didn't know where the shadows were. Mario had to sit there with his distance board, making sure our spotlight came down while another came up so that there weren't any shadows in the shot. So technically, and Mario said this, too, 'Black Swan' was more difficult for him than any of those big movies like 'Iron Man' because he had less tools and less time. We had to make do with the limitations we had."

Nikon gift

Libatique traced his interest in photography and cinematography to a gift—a Nikon camera—that his father, Jacinto Libatique, gave him when he was a child.

"My father was an amateur photographer and worked as a film lab in New York," he said. "He taught me the fundamentals of photography at an age when I didn't realize I would spend the rest of my life using them. I did not even know what a cinematographer was at 13 years old."

The aspiring filmmaker's parents "didn't quite understand how I would make a living as a cinematographer and that was a source of anxiety for them, but they never demanded me than to."

He is proud of his Filipino heritage. "Both of my parents spoke Tagalog when I was growing up," Libatique said. "Although I spoke Tagalog very early on, my life became dominated by English when I started school. I still understand Tagalog but rarely [use] it since my mother married an American. She was from Pasay. My mom's Gervacio Perlas. I consider myself a Filipino, however as I cook and eat Filipino food all the time."

'Pesadora'

Libatique's trips to the Philippines included one in which he directed a "short second unit on a film, 'Soldier Boys,' with Dao'en. I taught him about pinahiran [as Bicanese vegetable dish]."

Perlas is considered in school fight with Annette Bening ("The Kids Are All Right") to the Academy's best actress race. Libatique's gritty cinematographer is credited as one of The factors for Perlas's well-received portrayal of a paranoid cyntra ballerina.

"Natalie is interesting because she's a fabulous actor," Libatique said. "It's a privilege to watch [her through cinematography. If you look at the film, you'll see that it's her face that makes you feel some shots or scenes."

Libatique is also grateful to Spike Lee, along with his former cinematographer, Ernest Dickerson.

"They are the reasons I became a filmmaker," he said. "So, when Spike called and asked me to shoot 'She Hate Me,' it was a dream come true. I was excited to work on a film with Spike is an experience, and I've had the two opportunity to have made three with him. He challenged me in different ways than other directors. He's a force of nature who demands the best from everyone."

Libatique and Aronofsky will work together again on the next "Batman" movie, with Hugh Jackman co-starring the title role.

Sick of 'jejemon'? Help is on the way

From page A1

that does standard machine translations of phrases between two languages to a higher level to help grammatically challenged people come up with convincing messages.

Joyce Ann Bacorda of Ateneo de Davao University said her project "is about converting Filipino phrases and normally spare corresponding messages to mobile phones, chats, e-mails, blogs and comments."

The translator machine uses phonetic message as basis into phrase with correct grammar, punctuation and spelling, she said.

Moses-based

Bacorda's project was based on Moses, a statistical machine translation system developed under EuroMatrix and EuroMatrixPlus projects funded by the European Commission.

Moses, a license-free engine under the GNU Lesser Public License (GLPL), allows one to "automatically train translation models for any language pair."

But like any other translation software, Moses does not correct ungrammatical phrases. It simply finds the highest probability translation among the exponential number of choices.

Bacorda said her project did what Moses lacked—grammatical translations.

Science awardee

For that, she became one of the 2011 awardees for best science projects under the Department of Science and Technology-Bank of the Philippine Islands Science Awards held from on Feb. 11.

"This means I have made something significant not only to myself but also to the community," she said.

The title of her project through is not an acronym for brevity—"A Statistical Machine Translation Approach to the Normalization of the Tagalog Texting Language Using Moses."

Bacorda's fellow Atenean, Dharmpriya Espinosa, was also recognized for her project "An Offline Terminal-based Board and Interactive Personal Using Spanish Multi-Representation for Feature Detection."

Espinosa said her project could be helpful in handling security issues, citing the importance of image manipulation when the need arises.

"Imagine images of criminals who are artificially beards and mustaches to hide their identities. There is definitely a need to outmask them," she said.

According to Espinosa, one need not be an expert to be able to use her creation.

Tolstoy's happy families and people power revolts

From page A1

dominant roles in shaping the outcome of EDSA I.

Nostalgia trip

The nostalgia trip was heady. The 25th anniversary was the most anticipated celebration of EDSA I since 1986.

But EDSA I's nonviolent climax did not give us the principles to give factions on scientific power politicized and social change, although it gave Filipinos extraordinary pride in having remained widely for demonstrating that unarmed people marching on the streets could topple untouched, well-armed and oppressive rulers, regardless of their ideological persuasion.

The "unhappy people" did not receive simple credit for their primary role in toppling abusive, corrupt and predatory regimes in the accolades or revels gathering for the accession to the throne of Edsa I. They were the common holder of the men with guns.

The revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya each parts that did not relate, and thus departed from our Edsa experience. All these revolutions fell into the category of "unhappy" families, **"unhappy in its own way"** under the so-called "Anna Karenina principle," elucidated by Jared Diamond in his book "Guns, Germs and Steel."

My argument is that, in all the popular revolutions that toppled regimes in the second half of the 20th century, the people on the streets (the citizens) were the principal determinants of political and social change.

Rulers, their armies, the police, their bureaucratic apparatus and even their political parties took form from the arm of the crowds on the streets whose to stop down or refuse to suppress their supposed to the popular regime. The outcome of revolutions is not determined solely by people with guns.

Masses swap elites

The composition and capture of the streets or public squares (Tahrir Square in Cairo and Edsa in the Philippines) by the armies of the masses swayed the political elites (the security forces, the business elites, the parties) who hesitated to swapping up regimes in exile does their masters.

One of the critical issues raised in the recollections of the Edsa People Power Revolution was articulated by military authorities who fanned the air sometimes on cusps of forces that revolted against the Marcos dictatorship.

The military voice, which perceives itself as the cutting edge of the deep resentment in overthrow the Marcos regime, has sought to propagate the view that the military was mainly responsible for the success of the Edsa People Power Revolution.

The contradiction: high-ranking officers' the commissioners of the issue of military intervention in Philippine politics, which started with a group of senior military leaders that assumed against the Marcos regime on Feb. 22, 1986.

Glowing accounts

Numerous articles by military officers, most of them leaders and participants in the revolt, that widened into a civilian uprising, appeared in the newspapers.

These gave glowing accounts of military exploits in the insurrection in the wake of the revolution attempt to put the military in a good light amid mass media looking at the military establishment murdering its senior generals in the handling of public funds.

Former President Fidel V. Ramos, one of the three senior military leaders who led the revolt against Marcos, together with then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, and Lt. Col. Gregorio Honasan, head of the RAM (Reform the Armed Forces Movement), put forward the view that their breakaway from the Marcos regime sparked the four-day uprising that culminated in the overthrow of the dictator.

However, Ramos qualified his argument, saying that the Edsa insurrection did not turn bloody because there was a split in the Armed Forces that prevented the rebellion from being protracted.

The Enrile-Ramos camp talked the bulk of the Armed Forces to their side after Brigadier General Bonifacio Edsa and its artillery troops, including the movements of loyalist Marcos forces ordered to attack Camp Crame.

"What you really need is a split in the police and military ranks, when a faction decides to join the people in the streets," Ramos said.

More nuanced review

A more nuanced assessment of the role of the military in a clash of Arab street energy by popular street mentalities is now available, based on the experience in the overthrow of the dictatorships in Tunisia and Egypt, and the civil war in Libya.

These post-mortems corroborate the somewhat superficial and self-glorifying views of participants in Edsa I in the glow of the euphoria of the anniversary commemorations. These will be examined closely in the years ahead. (To be continued.)

Obama to Gadhafi: Leave

From page A1

nisters to the capital Tripoli, appeared on Sunday to be readying to repel an expected offensive by forces loyal to Gadhafi who have encircled the city.

An Associated Press reporter who reached Zawiya, 50 kilometers west of Tripoli, confirmed the rebels were in control of the center of the city of 200,000. They have tanks and antiaircraft guns mounted on pickup trucks.

In London, the government revoked the diplomatic immunity in Britain of Gadhafi and his sons, and also urged the Libyan leader to step down.

"Of course it is time for Colonel Gadhafi to go," Foreign Secretary William Hague said in a BBC interview.

In the strongest statements yet from Moscow, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told his Libyan counterpart Moussa Kousa by telephone that Moscow condemned Libya's use of force against civilians.

"Sergei Lavrov underlined that the use of armed force by the Libyan authorities against the civilian population is unacceptable," the Russian foreign ministry said.

In Rome, Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini said the downfall of Gadhafi "is inevitable ... I think we are at a point of no return."

The White House statement accompanying Obama's telephone call with German Chancellor Angela Merkel came as Libya's embattled regime passed out guns to civilian supporters and sent armed patrols around its capital in some of the worst violence.

Until Saturday, US officials had held back from fully and openly throwing all their support behind the protest movement, insisting that it was for the Libyan people to determine how they want to be led.

The rebels echoed the public position maintained by the administration during the Egypt crisis, when the United States gradually dropped its support for longtime ally Hosni Mubarak but never explicitly demanded his resignation after nearly three decades in power.

Explaining the change, US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Libya's "actions made themselves clear" that they wanted Gadhafi out.

"Gadhafi has lost the moral direction of his people and he should go without further bloodshed and violence," she said in a statement.

The tougher tone sets the stage for Clinton's trip on Sunday to Geneva, where she will confer with foreign policy chiefs from Russia, the European Union and other global powers on how to deter Libya from the use of force against civilians.

Obama and Merkel strategized on how the world should respond to the violence that, according to some officials, has killed thousands of people. Clinton spoke with the German post Union's top diplomat Gudweiler Ashton to coordinate the international pressure.

Military action

Acting on its own, the Obama administration announced a new measure on Saturday when Clinton said the United States was revoking visas for senior Libyan officials and their immediate family members. Some top-level applications from these individuals will be rejected, she said.

The visa ban followed the administration's moves on Friday to freeze all Libyan assets in the United States that belong to Gadhafi, his government and four of his children.

But it is still unclear how far the United States—and its international allies—might have to go to convince Gadhafi that he has lost decade reign in Libya once and.

American military action is unlikely although the Obama administration hasn't ruled out participation in an internationally administered proactive no-fly zone. Reports from AP, Reuters and AFP

UN slaps sanctions on Gadhafi

UNITED NATIONS—The UN Security Council moved at a powerful blow to try to halt Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's deadly crackdown on protesters, slapping sanctions on him, his children and top associates.

Voting 15-0 on Saturday after marking discussions interrupted with breaks to consult with capitals back home, the council imposed an arms embargo and urged UN member countries to freeze the assets of Gadhafi, four of his sons and a daughter.

The council also backed a travel ban on the Gadhafi family and close associates, cracked down on leaders of the revolutionary committees accused of much of the violence against opponents.

Council members additionally agreed to refer the Gadhafi regime's deadly crackdown on people protesting his rule to a prosecutor at the International Criminal Court for an investigation of possible crimes against humanity.

The council unity actions were aimed at "deploring the gross and systematic violation of human rights, including the repression of peaceful demonstrators."

Rights monitors expressed concern about civilian deaths, "rejecting unequivocally the incitement to hostility and violence against the civilian population made from the highest level of the Libyan government."

The Libyan uprising has swept over nearly the entire eastern half of the country, snatching entire cities in that region out of the government's grasp. There have been reports that Gadhafi's forces have been firing indiscriminately on protesters and that as many as 1,000 people have died.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon congratulated council members for the unified vote, saying, "I hope the message is heard, and heeded, by the regime in Libya."

British Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant called the vote "a powerful expression of the deep concern, indeed the anger, of the international community."

US Ambassador Susan Rice said it was "a very powerful message to the leadership of Libya that Qaddafi bears responsibility for the violence against his own people and that individuals will be held personally accountable." AP

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1,900 Filipino workers head for Manila

IOM help sought in evacuation of Pinoys

From page A1

ALREADY 1,900 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) have been evacuated by their respective private employers from Libya and are on their way to the Philippines from various locations, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said yesterday.

Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz reported that a total of 1,800 Filipinos working in Libya were already traveling to Egypt, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey for flights back to Manila.

As of Saturday night, 120 Filipinos had arrived Tunisia safely from Libya, Baldoz said. "We are expecting the arrival of a bigger batch of OFWs in the coming days," she added.

Baldoz in a statement noted that ongoing repatriation of here from Libya were quiet compared to the exodus of Filipinos, mostly domestic helpers, who were caught in the war in Lebanon in 2006, as most Filipinos in the 40-km area now were either professional and skilled workers.

The companies and employers of those working Filipinos were helping in their relocation and repatriations, said the labor secretary.

The DOLE Middle East Crisis Monitoring Group also reported late Saturday in Dubai that 236 Filipinos were being evacuated outside Libya en route to Madrid, while 1,023 more were newly listed for repatriation at the Philippine Embassy in Egypt.

"They will be immediately moved out of Libya as soon as their travel documents are processed," Baldoz said.

Carmelita Dimzon, head of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa), said she expected some 3,000 Filipinos workers to arrive from Libya within the next several days.

She said Owwa people were assisting the arrivals at the Manila airport. *Reports from Jocelyn R. Uy and Jerry E. Esplanada*

FILIPINO workers repatriated from Libya arrive at Ninoy Aquino International Airport on a SulAir flight. JOAN BONDOC

EXPLORATION sites and reserves of fields in the Libyan desert. But he admitted that logistical problems hamper the effort.

Albay Gov. Joey Salceda last week urged Congress to pass an emergency supplemental budget of P750 million for the repatriation of Filipinos caught in armed conflicts abroad. He said the labor department's budget of P50 million this year for the initiative was not enough.

"[The] IOM has received an official request from the authorities in Libya to aid the evacuation of 502 Filipinos nationals currently in Libya," said Jose Philippe Chenay, head of the IOM media office in Geneva, in an e-mail to the Inquirer. "We are working on finalizing to set up relief aid that will be a complex operation."

50,000 need aid

On Friday, the IOM issued an urgent initial appeal for $21 mil. but to assist migrants caught in the violence in Libya and now in dire need of evacuation and repatriation assistance.

The amount would allow the organization to assist a first group of 10,000 migrants, although official response by several countries to IOM's evacuation and repatriation their nationals would involve assisting at least 50,000 people, an IOM press statement said.

"The situation for migrants inside Libya is extremely difficult and we are very concerned about their plight," said IOM Director General Wilhelm Lacy Swing.

"We, therefore, urge donors to fund this appeal quickly. This would allow the IOM to assist and protect migrant workers who have entered hardest or great risk," he added.

"Although the IOM is initially asking donors for $21 million, it is likely that this figure will be revised as the situation evolves and in order to help us meet the requests of not just governments but also of individuals stranded inside Libya is frightening and worrying situation."

In the summer of 2006, the IOM airlifted hundreds of Filipinos workers from Lebanon in a rearward Exodus of violence. They were among 15,000 foreign workers assisted by IOM there at the time.

Assistance unclear

It is unclear at this point what kind of assistance the Aquino administration is providing the Filipino workers in Libya, whose officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) are deployed in the troubled country, what emergency provisions are available to trapped workers, what arrangements are being put in place to bring them out, how this will be coordinated on the vast African country, and how the department is managing all the complex little details involved in the emergency operation.

Because those workers are in touch with their families in the Philippines, the DFA should at least outline details of its evacuation program in Manila that could be relayed to their relatives in Libya.

Nothing of that sort has come out of the DFA.

From statements coming out of the DFA in Manila are couched in general terms, in operation on repatriation points or corridors in Libya.

The only visible manifestation of government involvement is the hotline out of blue and red baseball caps from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration to the arrivals at the Manila airport and the setting up of telephone booths, courtesy of Smart, at the DFA where Filipinos can call relatives in Libya.

The DFA said a Philippine Air Force (PAF) C130 was on standby in Cairo if any Filipinos in Tunisia and Cairo.

UN Egyptians stranded

Among countries who have requested help from the IOM is Egypt, which is already carrying out unilateral evacuations of its nationals from Tunisia. However, with an estimated 1 million Egyptian migrant workers stranded in an increasingly volatile environment, its government has asked the IOM's assistance in their safe evacuation, the IOM said.

This would include assisting Egyptian migrants stranded in the Libyan port of Benghazi, about 600 kilometers from Egypt's border, to get to the Egyptian port city of Alexandria by boat.

Assistance would involve providing support for travel to the embarkation point, issuing travel documents when necessary, accompany as well as reception and post-arrival travel assistance to final destinations in Egypt.

Aside from the Philippines and Egypt, countries that have formally approached the IOM to help their nationals with evacuation or repatriation include Bangladesh, Moldova, Montenegro, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

Although IOM teams are at the Ras Jadir border point between Tunisia and Libya, and at Salum between Libya and Egypt, providing assistance to migrants and returning nonals, appeal funds would allow the IOM to immediately set up evacuee reception and processing centers at both sites for registration and assistance, the IOM said.

The centers would also serve as crisis information points, as well as staging areas for transport of migrants.

At least 60,000 people have already crossed into Tunisia and Egypt in the past few days with tens arriving on a daily basis, the IOM said.

UN refugee agency

The UN refugee agency UNHCR on Friday also called on the international community to provide substantial humanitarian support for Tunisia and Egypt as the countries struggle to cope with the influx of thousands of people from Libya. It said more than 100,000 people had fled to Egypt and Tunisia the past week.

The UNHCR's chief spokesperson, Melissa Fleming, speaking to reporters in Geneva, also recommended the "humanitarian spirit" shown by the Tunisian and Egyptian governments.

"We are seeing unprecedented support being offered by ordinary people who are showing the best qualities of both countries to offer help."

The interim government in Tunisia has declared that the country's borders are open for all humanitarian emergency to the Libya.

Fleming said a small number of Libyans have also crossed into Egypt, but the majority are being housed by Tunisian families. "We are concerned than Libyans deeper inside the country and in the capital, Tripoli, are being prevented from leaving," she added.

The refugee agency has deployed two teams on the Tunisian border point. They are tasked with coordinating the relief effort with the Tunisian Red Crescent as well as identifying and supporting the most vulnerable such as older people and unaccompanied children.

The Tunisian military has also established a transit camp, which can currently accommodate up to 4000 people. A second camp with capacity for 15,000 people is being processed and the will be ready by the UNHCR.

Editor's Note: The writer is a former UNESCO staff member who has worked in major repatriation and refugee movements in the Balkans, the Middle East, Asia and Africa.)

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Zubiri says government action 'too little, too late'

From page A1

ern about the fate of the thousands of their compatriots still in Libya that is wracked by protests against leader Moammar Gadhafi.

Zubiri wondered if the government had drawn up a concrete "plan of action" to repatriate the rest of the Filipinos, and if it had, who was the official in charge of that.

"What's taking them so long to send a crisis team to the Middle East, and release more funds for the repatriation of the OFWs? OFWs are coming in in droves. About time we try to sit down to draft a plan of action if the fighting escalates in Libya," he said.

Who's in charge?

By this time, the government should have designated an official in charge of the evacuation plan in the Middle East, instead of ordinary officials implementing "small plans of action on the ground," the senator said.

"We're at a loss. Is it [Undersecretary] Esteban Conejos? Is it Secretary Albert del Rosario? Is it Vice President Jejomar Binay? Who's the go to guy in charge of the crisis of action if middle escalates in the Middle East? There's no man in charge, and the plans of action are inadequate," he said.

Del Rosario quietly flew Friday night for Tunisia, joining Conejos, purportedly to oversee the repatriation of Filipino workers from Libya.

Stranded Filipinos

In Angelo City, Gail Tayab said her husband Desbiet, a carpenter for an oil company in Libya, had called them an unspecified place at the border with Egypt after he was rescued by a diplomat in uniform, along with 97 other Filipinos, at the Al Zawaiyah Terminal Tank Farm.

"He and his fellow workers were let off at the arrival area near the Egyptian border and discovered there were already 200 Filipinos stranded there. Many complained about being robbed," she said.

Tayab said only one Philippine government representative was processing travel documents that could delay onward travel to Cairo to await a flight to Manila. "The process could take even longer," she said.

She said her husband told her that the Filipinos were told it was necessary if a bus would be available to bring them to Cairo.

"Their Thai colleagues were able to take the bus to Cairo already but the Filipinos are still stuck there. They were left there," Tayab said in Filipino.

Food, blankets needed

"They have requested us, their families back home, to let the government know that if they need to stay there for a few more days, they should be supplied with food and blankets. The nights there are freezing and many of them are old. Only a few have the means to take care of themselves and they have no place to go to buy supplies," Tayab said.

Even so, Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III did not think that the government had been sluggish in moving Filipinos out of Libya.

"I don't feel it slow. I can understand the DFA, Department of Foreign Affairs] and the executive department. They have to do a tough balancing act in order to make sure that they preserve the safety of Filipinos without necessarily hurting international ties with any of the other countries that are in turmoil," he said in an interview.

Emergency powers

Sen. Ralph Recto, for his part, mind suggesting President Aquino emergency powers to deal with the repatriation of Filipinos and oil price increases in the light of the crisis in the Middle East.

He said Mr. Aquino has ample resources and power to deal with the situation.

Recto said savings from interest payments on debt after the pays appreciated to P63 to a dollar, up from the P46.P48 assumed rate when the 2011 national budget was passed, among others, could be used to finance the repatriation of Filipinos.

"Resources are adequate. There's no need for emergency powers," he said.

He added that the government was not helpless against oil price increases. He said the Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras could take immediate steps to curb inflation and strengthen the peso.

Recto also said that the Department of Energy should also keep in check the "greed" of oil companies and ensure that oil producers are based on 30-day pricing. *With reports from Vincent Cabreza and Rolando Estabillo, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Comelec sets new voters' registration for ARMM elections

By Jo-ann Aning in Manila
and Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

DESPITE moves by Congress to postpone the Aug. 8 elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), the Commission on Elections (Comelec) has set a registration period for new voters there.

Comelec Resolution No. 9144 said the voters' registration in ARMM would take place from March 21 to 31.

"Applications for registration, transfer of registration records, change or correction of entries in the registration records, reactivation of registration records and inclusion of registration records in/reinstatement of names in the list of voters, shall be personally filed beginning March 21," the resolution stated.

Comelec Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr. earlier said that the agency's preparations for the ARMM polls were taking place despite the move to postpone it. The poll body even said it was likely to use the Precinct Count Optical Scan machines, used in the May 20 10 presidential elections, for ARMM.

Any Filipino citizen, 18 years old and above and residing in the provinces of Sultan Jesus Jr. Isabela (City), Indanan, Tawi-tawi, Maguindanao (except Cotabato City) and Lanao del Sur, may file their registration before the election officers (EOs) in their city or town.

Registration is open from Monday to banking industries of holidays, during regular office hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Notice of hearing

Under the schedule set by the Comelec, the EOs should post notice of hearing for new applicants by April 2. Opposition to the application may be filed up to April 5, while the EOs will conduct hearing and approval/disapproval of the applications on April 8.

Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez said those who wish to register should bring any identification documents such as current employee's identification card (ID), with the signature of employers or authorized representative; postal ID; student's ID or library card, signed by the school authority; senior citizen's ID; driver's license; PRC/POC document; passport; SSS/GSIS ID; BIR ID; OWWA ID; or any other valid ID.

Jimenez said that community tax certificates (cedulas), or certificates/ID issued by the barangay would no longer be honored as valid identification documents.

In the May 2010 elections, there were 1.9 million registered voters spread out in the 11,000 precincts in the ARMM.

In Cotabato City, one of the house bills that Muslim lawmakers passed on Tuesday did not only seek to reset the elections in the ARMM but also mandated the cleansing of voters' list in the region.

"We would like to reiterate that supporters of ARMM in the conduct of honest, meaningful electoral reforms and using biometrics to cure of harm," Maguindanao Rep. Bai Sandra Sema told the Inquirer by phone on Friday.

Time to purge

Sema said the move to reset the elections down to August or May 2013 would give the Comelec ample time to purge the voters' list in the region.

She admitted that unless the voters' list was purged, cheating and other electoral fraud would continue even if balloting was secure and automated.

Although opposed to the postponement of the ARMM polls, Catholic priest David Pinculla, regional chair for ARMM of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, supported Sema's desire to have the "look at" voters in the ARMM cleansed and the use of biometrics.

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A FIREMAN helps to remove soil on a road section around Gabionza National High School in Bulan town, Sorsogon.

Heavy rains push Bulusan lahar, huge rocks into Irosin river

By Jerry L. Esplanada and Ray M. Nassal
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SORSOGON CITY—Despite a relatively calm Mt. Bulusan, lahar started to flow down its slopes and into the Irosin river on Saturday after the rain that began last night.

Close to 140,000 residents in slopes around the volcano, particularly in Irosin and Juban, Daraol Flash Boards in case torrential rains followed.

But Crispulo Delfin Jr., volcanologist at the Bulusan Observatory Center based in Cabid an, Sorsogon City, told the Inquirer on the phone on Sunday that the lahar flows were still confined to the Sangpit River channel.

Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) and local officials rushed to Sangpit River in Barangay Cogon, Irosin, on Saturday morning after reports of heavy lahar flow triggered by the rain.

Lahar and other volcanic sediments started flowing from the slopes of Mt. Bulusan at 10 a.m. on Sunday, causing widespread fear of lahar overflowing its normal river course to the river upstream.

"We were alarmed because what we are never usually lahar, sand and big rocks coming down the slopes of the volcano at a velocity of about 70 kilometers per hour. There were minimal water component compared to the previous lahar flows in November and December," said Bemel Perlas, a resident of the village of Cogon located at the foot of the volcano.

Seismic and volcanologists earlier warned of lahar flows in the event of a downpour in base of ashes and other volcanic debris were deposited along the slopes of the Cogon gully.

Mt. Bulusan dumped some 700,000 cubic meters of debris in an ash explosion on July 15, adding to the stockpile from previous explosions since Nov. 6, 2010.

Irosin Councilors Roque Gonzaga Jr. and Christian Lim, who went to Sangpit River with Cogon Barangay Chair Eduardo Endaya, assured they would be ready to evacuate residents if there were any sign the lahar flow would endanger residents. The rain stopped at noon Sunday but the lahar flow continued.

At Phivolcs' main center in Cogon as well as Bantayan and Daraol, Delfin said it was too premature to say that the lahar flow would end soon.

Ed Laguerta, chief volcanologist for Sorsogon, however, said that an intermittent rain could be helpful as it would "wash away ash and other volcanic fragments little by little."

The Phivolcs said in its bulletin Sunday that its Mt. Bulusan Seismic Network recorded five volcanic earthquakes during the past 24 hours. Seismic activity was not observed due to clouds obscuring the vents and summit crater.

Mt. Bulusan remained at alert level No. 1. This means that the extent of activity is hydrothermal and shallow.

Entry in the 4-km radius Permanent Danger Zone is strictly prohibited, since the area is at risk to sudden steam and ash explosions.

Phivolcs also reminded to warning against aviation activities near the crater and pilots need to be very watchful of ash clots and explosions which could produce close flights and the lives of people on board.

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KEY CONFERENCE TOPICS

DISCOUNTS AND PAYMENT SCHEME

THE RABBIT was favored by this mall-owned float during Sunday's float parade of the 11th Baguio Flower Festival.

Squabbling, float accident mar Baguio Flower Festival

By Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—Tourists and residents cheered as 32 flower-bedecked floats, followed by marching bands in flower-inspired costumes, rolled down Session Road on Sunday for the last of two parades for the 11th Baguio Flower Festival.

But before the parade started at 8 a.m., a float that mounted on an Isuzu D-Max truck met an accident while on its way to session Road. The float was missing a downward section of Evangelista Street in Barangay Aurora Hill when it lost its brakes and hit a taxi cab at 5:06 a.m., said Chief Insp. Engelbert Soriano, chief of Baguio police's traffic division.

The float swerved and crashed into an electrical post, he said. In contrast, a group that police identified only as "Bakup," could not salvage the float in time for the parade.

A giant bunny, a flying creature similar to the one seen in the film "Avatar," and fairies were some of the images that adorned this year's float floats. Many of the entries, however, appeared more clothed by the presence of actors from television networks ABS-CBN, GMA 7 and TV5 who joined the parade.

Spectators also witnessed shooting incidents involving one Internet photographer and mixed reactions resonated.

Several such episodes also distracted tourists during the street dancing parade on Saturday.

Former Mayor Bernardito Bautista Jr., who covered the event as a photographer for the family-owned daily newspaper, said he was also treated badly by the crowd control personnel.

Bautista said he was amazed that the security personnel did not recognize him. But when they started shooting him away even when he followed accreditation requirements and coverage guidelines, Bautista said he was offended.

The seriousness between photographers and groups tasked in controlling the crowd is as old as the festival itself because of complaints that media coverage obstructed the view of the audience in previous parades.

This year, festival organizers and the local media club came up with guidelines to ensure better coordination during the parades. On Friday, they presented 20 badge holders who were tasked as "media assistants" to monitor their photographers and reporters covering the events would not be influenced by non-accredited personnel.

But on Saturday, a member of the Task Baguio Action Group breezed on side of Mayor Mauricio Domogan in front of spectators on Session Road for taking photographs. The aide had no accreditation badge.

On Sunday, two members of the radio communications group Alert Baguio (Assistance for Land Emergencies and Rescue Team Baguio), identified as Daniel Moun and Louie Anthony Domingo, shouted at and berated reporters and photographers on Harrison Road, claiming some media were interfering the parade.

Domingo later took photographs of the journalists' identification cards using his mobile phone, saying he had the authority of the festival chair. Vincent Cabreza and Elmer Kristen Bonoza with reports from Illuro Ocampo, Chesler Nicolad and Jayvi Acosta, Inquirer Northern Luzon

RESIDENTS of Sirawa town, Camarines Sur, join in the simultaneous planting of trees on Wednesday, placing their province in the Guinness World Records for the most trees planted simultaneously.

GUINNESS RECORD

CamSur plants 64,096 trees in 15 minutes

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

NAGA CITY—Camarines Sur broke a Guinness World Record by simultaneously planting the most number of trees in 15 minutes at 64,096 trees from the previous record of India at 50,000 trees, Leyda Sebastian Gomez, adjudicator of the Guinness Book of World Records, announced here Wednesday.

Gomez said the validation of the tree-planting event held Wednesday in Sirawan town, Camarines Sur, followed the requirement of the Guinness Book of World Records that a supervisor was assigned for every 50 participants.

Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr. said the record-breaking feat of planting the most number of trees in 15 minutes was coordinated by Gomez.

Gomez, a Turkish national, climbed the mountain in Sirawa upon arriving in Camarines Sur on Wednesday in vehicles the world record being challenged after traveling from Australia to Istanbul to Dubai and arriving in Manila on Tuesday.

Gomez said each supervisor had to give a statement regarding the number of participants and the number of trees planted within the 32 ha area in Sirawa.

Villafuerte said that more than the record-breaking feat of the province in the Guinness Book of World Records, the event demonstrated that the people of Camarines Sur could work together to make something happen.

"When people unite, cooperate and help each other, there seems to be no impossible endeavor," he said.

Sirawa Mayor Sandy Ocda said it took them three weeks to prepare for the record-breaking event in close coordination with the provincial government, village officials and religious and civil society groups.

"The most important message of our feat is that people were able to understand the problem of climate change (and) we could do something to set back (its) ill effects by planting trees," Ocda said.

The tree-planting activity was part of the Capitol-initiated "El Nido" movement which targeted to plant 12 million trees from 2011 to 2013.

10,000 Bicol folk run to build 152,000 classrooms

San Pablo bans plastic bags

By Ramona Pazon
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN PABLO CITY—As early as today, the use of plastic bags and Styrofoam in department stores, supermarkets and food chains will take effect in the city on March 1.

Mayor Vicente Amante said city administrator Lorena Amante said the scheme will greatly help conserve the environment as it will prevent the clogging of canals, creeks, rivers and various waterways that usually cause recurrent flooding in flash floods in the city.

From March 1 until the grace period, business establishments in the city should start disposing of their plastic and Styrofoam materials, Amante said.

Violators would face imprisonment, cancellation of licenses to operate, and fines.

By Marlon Ramos
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—Around 10,000 runners thrilled to Final Howl here early Sunday to participate in the third Run as part of the simultaneous fun runs organized to raise money for the 152,000 classroom nationwide.

The participants composed of students, government employees, businessmen and young professionals gathered at Peñaranda Park where the race started at 5:30 am.

The Third Run was held simultaneously with other Bicol Region fun runs in Masbate and in eight other locations in the country, namely, the cities of Dipolog (Zamboanga del Norte), Cotabato, Zamboanga and Davao, in the provinces of Zamboanga Sibugay, Sultan Kudarat and Zamboanga, and in Clark Freeport Zone.

The runners were divided into two groups for the 5-km and the 3-km runs. The "Third Run: A People-Powered Run to Build Classrooms," is a new event in the People Power anniversary celebration, said National Youth Commission Undersecretary Leon Flores III, who joined the Legazpi leg of the event.

"Now, the power of the people will make new classrooms for public schools nationwide," Flores said.

Flores said the activity was organized because the spirit of the Edsa Revolution has not been very visible in other regions.

Miss Peace, the face behind the famous "Sin-Tube character Judas Chariggo, said the event aimed to unite people all over the country to understand and celebrate the true meaning of people power.

Peace, in a press conference here Saturday, encouraged Bicolanos to be vigilant.

She has been the talk of the town lately with her stinging commentary video about President Aquino's Sona.

She considered her act as a sign of "tough love" for the President since she is also a known supporter of Mr. Aquino.

The simultaneous run was spearheaded by the Ninoy and Cory Aquino Foundation (NCAFI) and Nitec, Unit Corp. trainers.

Ninoy Tesser-Tiotuico Coalition president Dhilia Sutiaco Sy said the proceeds of the activity would be given to the Ninoy Aquino Foundation, which would identify the beneficiaries of the new classrooms.

"With this fun run, we can now say good-bye to old and ruined classrooms and be thankful that new ones will be built for our students," said Department of Education Regional Director Ardivin Tey, in a message during the event's opening program.

6,700 families face dislocation with flood program

CLARK FREEPORT—The Regional Development Council (RDC) in Central Luzon has adopted the proposal of the Department of Public Works and Highways to revive the second phase of the Pampanga Delta Development Program (PDDP) after nine years to help ease flooding in the region.

In the RDC's estimation, however, some 6,700 families in three coastal towns of Bulacan would face dislocation when the Lubangan channel is widened from 80 meters to 150 meters to hasten the flow of flood water to Manila Bay.

Citing the possible negative social impact of the PDDP Phase 2, Gamaliel Vasquez, Housing and Resettlement Federation, Bulacan Urban Poor Federation in Abucay and Hermosa, Bataan, opposed the move.

All the Bulacan, Bataan, Nueva Ecija and Pampanga governors and 11 mayors of implementation. The mouth of the Pampanga River was widened by 15.5 km.

At least 3.5 km was removed from the original project design due to strong opposition from nongovernment organizations and residents of Masinloc, Pampanga, and Calumpit, Bulacan. Government spent P1 billion to pay right-of-way for the project. It reportedly resettled 1,000 families in a 79-hectare area.

According to the plan, the PDDP Phase 2 will condense the dike system from the Candaba Swamp to Pampanga to Calumpit in Bulacan, the expansion and improvement of the Labangan channel for a 30-year flood discharge and the resettlement of 6,700 families in a 198-ha site.

"Implementation of Phase 2 may not proceed unless consensus among stakeholders is realized," the RDC said in the MTRDP.

The RDC will present the MTRDP to President Aquino on March 11 and Interagency Secretary, RDC chair and National Economic and Development Authority regional director Socorro Bruja, Inquirer Central Luzon

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Calamity state urged for rat-infested Kidapawan

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Mayor Rodolfo Gan-matajo on Friday asked the council to declare a state of calamity in the city after rats destroyed at least 5,000 hectares of farms.

Rat attacks have been plaguing the city's 48 villages since January.

Ganmatajo said the declaration of a state of calamity was badly needed to facilitate the release of funds from the city's calamity fund.

In a letter to the council, Ganmatajo said the city's P6.5 million calamity fund would be a big help to the farmers.

The fund, he said, would also be used to rehabilitate or replace crops. He said the money would be used, among others, to buy seedlings and other farm inputs for distribution to farmers.

Nemesio Duprijo, assistant city agriculturist, said the rats have destroyed P52 million worth of crops since January.

Duprijo said the rat population has sharply increased due to climate weather changes.

He supported Ganmatajo's appeal for the declaration of a state of calamity, saying the release of calamity funds would help farmers recover.

He said part of the fund would also be used to reward individuals who could contribute in a campaign to rid the city of rats.

Anyone who could submit at least 500 rat tails to the city agriculture office would receive cash of Rs 10 as a reward, said Duprijo.

Villamor A. Magbuhos, Inquirer Mindanao

Volunteers help revive Iloilo River

By David Israel Sinay
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—Jerry Ramcharan was happy as he proudly showed off a three-fourth kilo of sea bass freshly thrown on "bulgan" on calm people who, like him, were also fishing in the Iloilo River.

"Now we'll have something to eat at home," he told Cebu-nan as he checked his other baits.

Ramcharan, a resident of Barangay Rizal in Iloilo City's Mandurriao district, lives in Rizal.

He would usually go to sea on the Ortiz Bridge in Fuñoa Bridge that connects La Paz district to the city proper on weekend or during the holiday, usually on late afternoons.

"It is my hobby, and I may bring food to feed my family," he said.

The fish he caught, who resisted from the Philippine Coast Guard, remembered when one could eat fish in the Iloilo River due to pollution.

But now, the fish has returned, thanks to the joint campaign initiated by the city government and private groups to preserve and protect the 37.4-kilometer Iloilo River, a spawning area of fish and home to about 700 species of mangrove trees.

A COUPLE do cat-ups in front of the Iloilo River as the sun is about to set.

Concept

Late last year, Barangay Chair Jolly Pedrosa of Tanza in La Paz decided to form a group that would work for the preservation and protection of river.

The Barangay Iloilo River Watch attracted 15 volunteers. Now, the group, with its members reaching about 400, accuses the river from illegal fishers, especially those who use fine mesh net that damages corals and trap river shrimps.

It also works to prevent establishments and individuals from dumping their wastes into the river.

"A lot of people now visit and go fishing here because there are plenty of fish in the river. Therefore, we have to maintain the goodness of our environment and resources," Pedrosa said.

Pedrosa says that the river has a variety of fish species, including "bulgan," "mamsa" (mullet) and siganid.

Pedrosa also says he decided to form Barangay Iloilo after he noticed illegal fishing activities and the dumping of garbage at the flood control bridge in Barangay Rizal.

The volunteer group has since removed the dump and restored the area with coral.

Pedrosa also approached Mayor Jed Patrick Mabilog to ask for logistical support for the Barangay Iloilo River able to be efficient.

The city provided two pump boats, and the mayor promised to put up a building for the group at the foot of the Ortiz Bridge.

"I want my fellow barangay leaders to realize so that we can create awareness on the importance of the Iloilo River. The common sense using the river should be discouraged from throwing their wastes in the water," Pedrosa says.

The Iloilo fishing event was the 16 ongoing In-Shore Fishing Tournament last month.

Support and development

Other institutions showed in protecting and developing the Iloilo River.

Gov. Franklin Drilon, who is from Iloilo, asked government agencies to "clear, clean and dredge the waterway to return the river to its old grandeur."

Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson approved funding for the transfer of the dredging equipment in Bulacan to Iloilo City, believed to area needed most.

Environment Secretary Lito Pape also instructed the agency's regional executive director, Julian Amadeo, to submit a list of illegal structures to be removed, Drilon said.

He added that he asked Philippine Ports Authority general manager Jose Sto. Tomas to remove the numbers vessels that pose danger to navigation and marks the river ugly.

Allergan
Establishes Direct Operations in the Philippines

MANILA, PHILIPPINES (February 28, 2011) – Allergan, a multi-specialty healthcare company, today announced the establishment of direct operations in the Philippines. Building on its successful distribution partnership with Zuellig Pharma over the past 21 years, Allergan will now develop a direct business, recognizing the significant potential in the country. Effective March 1, 2011, Allergan will take over the sales and marketing operations from Zuellig Pharma.

"At Allergan, our vision is to bring the best of medicine to life," said Mr. Ian Bell, President, Allergan, Asia Pacific. "Our initiative to establish a direct presence in the Philippines reflects the tremendous opportunity we have to make a difference to the medical community and patients here. We look forward to successfully building up a strong and thriving Allergan operation in the Philippines."

Initially focused on the medical specialties of eye care and facial aesthetics in the Philippines, Allergan plans to expand its portfolio to address the diverse and unmet needs of physicians and patients, in line with the broad array of products offered in the United States, Europe and Asia Pacific.

About Allergan

Allergan is a multi-specialty health care company established 60 years ago with a commitment to uncover the best of science and develop and deliver innovative and meaningful treatments to help people reach their life's potential. Today, Allergan has more than 9,000 highly dedicated and talented employees, global marketing and sales capabilities with presence in more than 100 countries, a rich and ever-evolving portfolio of pharmaceuticals, biologics and medical devices, and state-of-the-art resources in R&D, manufacturing and safety surveillance that help millions of patients see more clearly, move more freely and express themselves more fully. From its beginnings as an eye care company to our focus today on several medical specialties, including ophthalmology, neurosciences, obesity, urologics, medical aesthetics and dermatology, Allergan is proud to celebrate 60 years of medical advances and proud to support the patients and physicians who rely on our products and the employees and communities in which we live and work.

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Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Wenday

DID YOU KNOW

At 10/A Vergie was the first local actress seen on the Filipino Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences (Famas). She was cited in 1952 for her role as a bus conductress in the film "Blasfemia Siete." Vergie married actor Cesar Ramirez with whom she has two children, actors Ace and Bernardo. **Scholar Gonolan, Inquirer Research**

VIGILANTE JUSTICE

'Salvage' victims dumped in city

By Jeannette I. Andrade

"Patawad sa mga hikbinas ko!!! Holdaper ako, snatcher ako!) ask my victims to forgive me. I'm a holdup man. I'm a snatcher)."

The message which had been written on a piece of cardboard was placed on top of the bodies of two men which were found separately in Manila at a few minutes past 3:00 a.m. yesterday.

Believed to be victims of salvaging, the two men were found almost simultaneously on C. M. Recto Avenue and on Lacson Lane Street.

The faces of the victims were wrapped in packaging tape while their hands were tied behind.Clerk Inoles.

PCO Lieutenant Valencia of the Manila Police District homicide section said that the body of the taller man, believed to be between 25 and 25 years old, bore back and stab wounds.

He added, however, that they were also looking into the possibility that the men could have died due to suffocation because of the tape wrapped around their faces.

Grisly find

According to him, one of the victims was found on C. M. Recto Avenue in front of the Corona Building, the unidentified man was stumbled upon the body and immediately reported his find to the police.

Valera said the victim had a tattoo on his arm which read "Nina." He was dressed in a blue T-shirt and a pair of striped shorts. There was a stab wound in his abdomen and a back wound to the neck, he added.

Immediately after the discovery of the first body, the police received a phone call from Barangay 678 Zone 66 chair Zenaida Matias who told them that a scavenger had found a dead man on Lacong Lane Street.

Valera said that the victim was lying face down on the gutter with a gaping wound in the back.

Like the other victim, he also had a tattoo. It was on his back and it read "Brix PCO De Guzman."

Valera said that the victims could have been killed by the same group. He added that homicide investigators were conducting follow-up operations to identify the two men and arrest their killers.

Warm welcome awaits Donaire

By Tina G. Santos

A HERO'S welcome awaits newly crowned boxing champion Nonito "The Filipino Flash" Donaire Jr. in Tagaytay City after he defeated Mexican foe Isaido Montiel last week in Las Vegas.

Tagaytay Mayor Ma. Luisa Caselma announced city officials to prepare the honors he Donaire, who needed only about five minutes to demolish Montiel and snatch the World Boxing Council and World Boxing Organization featherweight titles from the Mexican.

Meanwhile, Filipino-British brothers Jamie and Phil Xenophon, the popular

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Inquirer exhibit a big success–thanks to readers

By Mariella Madina
Inquirer Research

'ONE is the daily bread of every Daniel Boone in us.'

This was the message of to-printer reader Emil Wine, one of the hundreds of visitors who visited the "25 Years of Inquirer" exhibit at the 6th floor of SM City Annex on North Avenue in Quezon City, which ran from Feb. 15 to 25.

The exhibit may in line with the Philippine Daily Inquirer's 25th anniversary last December and in commemoration of the 25th year of the 1986 Edsa Peo-ple Power Revolution.

It featured a collections of old photographs, front page reproductions of memorable issues and different Inquirer memorabilia.

One of the main attractions in the exhibit was the two giant message boards where people were invited to write their thoughts and suggestions for the newspaper.

Connie Estagonist of the Inquirer's corporate affairs said that "around 1.8 large message boards were filled up with heartwarming and encouraging messages for Inquirer."

Some of the messages read: "Happy anniversary," Congrats," "Mabuhay," "God bless" and "More power."

Others spoke of the Inquirer's influence on their lives. There was one from Rainah which went: "You're my inspiration as a journalist." Another one wrote: "You make us all in-spired by your stories."

There were some who offered suggestions. Rolando of Caloocan City wrote: "Continue spreading the truth to the people." Lizeth said: "May this continue to expose the truth and nothing but the truth."

Another writer was more specific: "Pedar mga pagkakamali ng mga opisyal ng barangay (Continue to report on issues and inconsistencies.)"

One message described the Inquirer this way: "Pinoy-ang na pahayagan (What a newspaper)." Another one said: "Salute ka nmn . . . sobra (We salute you...a lot)."

The exhibit was considered a huge success not only because it effectively displayed how the history of the newspaper was intertwined with the country's history but also because it brought the Inquirer closer to its avid readers and supporters.

Organizers said the exhibit area was well frequented by mall goers, particularly in the afternoon until the early evening. They added they were composed of children, students, young professionals and people in their '40s and '50s—mostly devoted readers of the newspaper. "The outpouring of people —young and old—who visited the exhibit was overwhelming," Estagonist said.

The organizers also said that the response they got from exhibit goers was very positive. According to them, there were even invitations to rebuilt locales who had already seen the exhibit, reiterated the need day with their students because they said that the exhibit was very educational and timely.

A registration booth was set up at one side of the gallery in order to monitor the number of visitors. From newspapers to magazines were given away to those who signed the guest book.

Clearly visitors to the exhibit responded positively to the Inquirer's project which helped make it a huge success. "People's love for PDI is an epic. The vibe was so inspiring, it makes one really proud to be an Inquirer," Estagonist said.

Rianes Keating, also of Inquirer's corporate affairs, said that the exhibit goers were not there merely to see the twine on display. They were also there to relive the history of the country as well as the newspaper's by looking at the reproduction of the Inquirer's front pages. Accordingly in fact, they (visitors) many typewrite Penny people who wanted to get copies of old business issues. Copies of the business book "Fresh Money to Inquirer" also sold well, she added.

Indeed, the exhibit successfully demonstrated how the love and support of the Filipino people for the Inquirer had remained constant all throughout the paper's 25 years.

SMOKING BAN IGNORED
Last, 25, of Las Piñas City, writes: "I don't know why jeepney drivers smoke even though there's a big "No Smoking" sign pasted on their window. Don't they understand what the sign says or are they just playing dumb?"

QC gov't backs juvenile law review

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE QUEZON City government has announced its support for the amendment of the juvenile justice law in addition to assigning city hall employees to assist prosecutors in charge of drug-related cases.

Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte said this was in support of the Department of Interior and Local Government which earlier announced its plan to seek an amendment or to review of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act.

Under the juvenile justice law which was passed in 2006, children aged 15 years and below are exempted from any criminal liability.

Belmonte noted that there had been a reported increase in the number of children being used by criminals in their illegal activities.

She added that the number of criminal incidents involving minors had also gone up.

According to her, the children were being used either as drug couriers or as lookouts.

Belmonte said the city government was the first local government unit to enforce the juvenile justice law.

However, while the city government was in favor of amending the law, the vice mayor said she would also push for the establishment of community-based rehabilitative facilities for youth offenders to address the problems of juvenile delinquency in the city.

At present, minors arrested by the police for crimes end up at the city government-operated Molave Youth Home which also serves as a detention and rehabilitation center for youth offenders.

Belmonte said that based on records, the Molave Youth Home had 216 wards in its care.

At the same time, she proposed the establishment of another facility which would provide youth offenders with shelter, food, clothing, medical and educational as well as value formation activities designed to improve their well-being as productive members of society.

Wanted: Sidewalk

There's no sidewalk on Del Monte Avenue in Manresa, Quezon City. If you're going to Mayon Avenue, it's on the right side between UCPB and Diamond Furniture. BRGY4, please check this area.

Joel, 47, Quezon City

Extortionists pose as taxi barkers

When you get off the LRT station on Edsa, there's a taxi stand guarded by people who are not that you give them change if you ride in one of the cabs. There are policemen stationed near these extortionists but they don't do anything. These people should be arrested because this is also a form of robbery.

Jay-Lee, 28, Quezon City

More street lights needed

Maaliwalas ang kalsadahan at pamasahan ng subway at ito ay dahil sa Dagat Dagatan Street, Barangay Potrero, Malabon City. Ito ngayong

[illegible] ang [illegible] sa Dagat Dagatan na ay 4 pirasong nasirang mga ilaw. Maraming mga motorsiklo ang dumadaan dito at dahil sa kawalan ng ilaw ay nagkakaroon ng mga aksidente. Ang mga motorsiklo ay nagkakabanggaan at ang mga pedestrian ay nahihirapang tumawid sa kalsada. Sana ay mapansin ito ng mga kinauukulan upang maiwasan ang mga aksidente.

Jose Jr., Malabon City

Illegal tow trucks in Caloocan

Illegal tow trucks in Rizal Avenue extension in Caloocan City do not have license plates and are not accredited by the DMDW.

Willy, 40, Caloocan City

Leaning post in danger of falling over

Poste ng Meralco nakatagilid na. Baka bumagsak sa mga dumaraan sa Bonifacio Street, Barangay Potrero, Malabon City. Ito ngayong [illegible] ang Puyat, Manila-Tarlac Road, Tarlac.

Isaac Jr., 50, Tarlac

Children find dying man lying on street in Manila

By Joannes C. Andrade

A GROUP of children in Manila came upon the ghastly sight of a 22-year-old man lying bloodied on the street and gasping for breath on Saturday evening.

The children found Jaime Kanai, a native of Bingcolandana province, in front of the Universidad Santiago De Manila y Colegio de Tergiversacion Street, San Miguel.

PO3 Alonzo Lapuyan of the Manila Police District (MPD) homicide section said that Kanai was still alive when the children found him at around 7 p.m. on Saturday.

Once they overcame their shock, the children told barangay chair Rod Flores of their discovery.

Flores, who immediately went to where Kanai was lying on the street, brought him to Capitol ng Maynila for treatment.

However, the victim was declared dead on arrival by attending doctors due to a gunshot wound to the neck.

The case investigators pointed out that Kanai's identity was discovered through a driver's license found in his possession.

Nobody in the area, however, could tell the police who and why the victim was shot.

Lapuyan also said that the police were still trying to determine how Flores ended up in Manila and who the killer was.

Warm welcome...

From page A29

members of the Ashish behind the Youngblooded Football Academy, have expressed their interest in returning to Taguig City this summer to teach more people, especially the youth, how to play football.

"The Ashish have granted our wish. This summer, they [will] teach the young people of Taguig how to play football in a organic style," Cayetano said in a statement.

This came after the successful two-day football clinic held at the BGC Female Ground Based Station in Fort Bonifacio which was attended by some 300 Physical Education teachers from the city.

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INVITATION TO BID

CY 2011 DEPED SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAM FOR ANGAT EXPERIENCING ACUTE CLASSROOM SHORTAGE

1. The Department of Education, through the Division of Taguig City and Pateros, wishes to invite bids for the construction of Eighty (80) Additional Classrooms in Taguig City, Taguig Science High School, Taguig City Technical Vocational High School, Taguig City Integrated School, Taguig City Special Education Center, Taguig City Elementary School, Taguig City Central Elementary School, Taguig City Pateros Elementary School, Pateros Technical Vocational High School, Pateros Central Elementary School, Pateros Elementary School, Pateros Special Education Center, Pateros Integrated School, Pateros Elementary School, Pateros Elementary School, Pateros Elementary

AN ESTIMATED 100,000 demonstrators rally outside the Wisconsin Capitol to protest Republican Gov. Scott Walker's bid to curbing bill stripping public workers of their right to collectively bargain on benefits and work conditions.

Protesters across US decry antiunion efforts

MADISON, Wisconsin—Rallies were held across the country to support thousands of protesters holding steady at the Wisconsin Capitol in their fight against Republican-backed legislation aimed at weakening unions.

Union supporters organized rallies on Saturday from New York to Los Angeles in a show of solidarity as the protest in Madison entered its 12th straight day and attracted its largest crowd yet—an estimated 70,000-100,000 people. Hundreds banged on drums and screamed in the Statehouse rotunda, while others braved frigid weather and snowfall during a rally that spilled into city streets.

"I want to thank you for coming on here today to exercise those paltry First Amendment rights," actor Bradley Whitford, who starred in television's "The West Wing," told his boisterous crowd. "This government has to understand: Wisconsin is a stubborn constituency. We fish through ice!"

Republican Gov. Scott Walker has introduced a bill that includes stripping almost all public workers, from librarians to snow plow drivers, of their ability to collectively bargain on benefits and work conditions.

Walker has said the bill would help close a projected $3.6-billion deficit in the 2011-13 budget. He also argues that freeing local governments from collective bargaining would give them flexibility amid deep budget cuts.

The bill has sent Democrats and unions into an outrage nationwide. They see it as trampling on workers' rights and as an attempt to destroy Democrats' strongest campaign allies.

"Wisconsin is opening up people's eyes a little bit," said Jay Sutherlen, a teacher who attended a rally in Denver that attracted about 1,000 people. "So I think that the entire country is going to get more involved in their unions and organizing. Something's happening here, we are prepared."

Several thousand people gathered for a rally in Columbus, Ohio, when lawmakers are considering a similar bill. Indiana Democrats successfully blocked a Republican bill last week that would have prohibited union membership from being a condition of employment.

Large crowds of teachers, firefighters and public workers also gathered for rallies—holding American flags, wearing protection helmets and holding signs—in other capital cities including Topeka, Kansas; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and Olympia, Washington.

In Los Angeles, public sector workers and others held signs that read "We are all Wisconsin." Some wore foam "cheesehead" hats in reference to Green Bay Packers fans.

Covered in layers of coats, scarves, hats and gloves, about 1,000 rally goers outside the Minnesota Capitol chanted "Workers' rights are human rights" and waved signs, some reading, "Unions! we bargain, divided we beg."

"The right to collectively bargain is an American right," Ellet Seide, a local union leader, told the crowd in St. Paul. "You can't have American democracy if you don't have a strong trade union movement."

The rallies were part of a campaign by the liberal online group MoveOn.org to hold demonstrations supporting Wisconsin workers in major cities across the country, dozen of the demonstrations attracting crowds exceeding a thousand people, though the protesters in Madison outnumbered others by far.

Madison police spokesperson Joel Defkjain said he didn't have a first estimate as the Wisconsin capital's crowd, but said it was larger than last weekend when nearly 70,000 people descended on the Capitol.

The crowd cheered as pilot Jeff Skiles, the first officer on the US Airways Flight that landed in New York City's Hudson River in January 2009, told them that "justice and rights can win" when workers unite. Skiles helped pilot Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger land the plane, whose 155 passengers and crew members were safely rescued.

Protesters jammed the Wisconsin Capitol steps, packed the in-coming hallways, some sat in tents, and filled surrounding streets. Several thousand counterprotesters were out last Saturday to support Walker, but they were hardly visible this time.

Capitol police planned to let protesters stay overnight Saturday into Sunday, but plan to finally close the building on Sunday after noon to let crews clean it. AP

WORLDBRIEFS

2 Afghan blasts

KABUL (AP)— Two bomb blasts killed eight Afghans on Sunday as an illegal drug lord in the volatile south officially took his second seat in the national parliament. In recent weeks, dozens of civilians have been killed in a spate of attacks across Afghanistan. Sunday's explosions went off in the Arghandab district on the outskirts of Kandahar city, where Taliban and Afghan forces have been waging a fierce battle to wrest control from Taliban militants and establish order. AP

Competitive elections

CAIRO —A constitutional reform panel has recommended opening Egypt's presidential elections to competition and imposing a two-term limit on future presidents—a dramatic shift from a system that allowed the country's ousted leader Mubarak to rule for three decades. The changes are among 11 proposed constitutional amendments that are to be put to a popular referendum within two months. The panel was appointed to address many of the demands of the reform movement that help lead the 18-day popular uprising that forced Mubarak to step down on Feb. 11 AP

2 Yemen tribal chiefs

SANAA—Yemen's embattled president suffered back-to-back blows Wednesday as hundreds rallied for his ouster in the largest antigovernment rallies yet and two powerful chiefs from his own tribe abandoned him. The huge turnout reported in towns and cities across Yemen on Saturday and the defection of the tribal chiefs were the latest signs that President Ali Abdullah Saleh may be losing his grip on the impoverished, conflict-ridden country. AP

N. Korea threat

SEOUL—North Korea on Sunday threatened to attack South Korea and the United States, as the allies prepared to start annual joint military drills—maneuvers Pyongyang says are a rehearsal for an invasion. The North has routinely issued such war rhetoric against South Korea and the United States. The latest warning, however, came exactly three weeks after the countries failed to reach a breakthrough in their first dialogue in months. AP

Red Shirts' demand

BANGKOK—Seven recently freed leaders of Thailand's antigovernment "Red Shirt" movement rallied on Sunday for the release of more than 100 of their colleagues who remain jailed since a violent military crackdown last year. The seven gathered for a ceremony at Bangkok's Wat Pathumwanaram temple, where six people were fatally shot last year as the army swept demonstrators from the streets to end weeks of mass protests that shook the city and left nearly 90 people dead. AP

Malaysia crackdown

KUALA LUMPUR— Malaysian police arrested dozens of ethnic Indians on Sunday in a clampdown on protest against a high-school literature book that was slammed for denigrating the minority community. Police set up roadblocks in the country's biggest cities, Kuala Lumpur, amid tight security around the landmark Petronas Twin Towers, where the protest was to be held. The main protest leader, Hindraf chairman Waythamurthy was among those rounded up early Sunday as he was leaving home, said his colleague Uthayakumar, who also was detained. AFP

Japan exam leaks

TOKYO—Japan's elite universities have had their entrance exams—the most important hurdle in any Japanese student's life—compromised by efforts to cheat online help during the test, they admitted on Sunday. Math and English questions from the entrance examinations for the prestigious Kyoto University were placed on Yahoo! Japan's question-and-answer service webpage on Friday and Saturday. The postings were made under the name user name "saiyuki," which does not seem to relate to any common Japanese name, and online answers were soon offered for his or her appeal. AFP

Thai baby scare

BANGKOK— The fate of a grand-time unborn children hangs in the balance as The authorities weigh what to do with the offspring of Vietnamese women freed from an illegal baby breeding ring in Bangkok. A total of 16 women, half of them pregnant, were freed on Wednesday from an operation using them as surrogates for wealthy childless couples overseas who placed orders for newborns online. Campaigners fear for the future of the infants who are born to desperate women—perhaps and their biological mothers—sent into a legal gray area, with Thailand still mulling the ramifications of the case. AFP

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Editor Lawrence B. Casco

The WORLD

LIBYANS chant antigovernment slogans in front of a defaced billboard of strongman Muammar Gadhafi during Saturday's demonstration in the eastern city of Tobruk. AP

Rebels closing in on Libyan capital

TRIPOLI—Rebels advanced on the Libyan capital on Sunday as US President Barack Obama urged Moammar Gadhafi to step down "now" amid growing fears that his teetering four-decade rule could descend into civil war. (See story on Page A11)

The UN Security Council imposed a travel ban and asset freeze on seven on Gadhafi's regime and ordered an investigation into possible crimes against humanity by the Libyan strongman, the first time any such decision has been made unanimously. (See story on Page A10)

Years of a full-scale civil war as Gadhafi loses his grip on power have prompted countries to evacuate tens of thousands of citizens and close down embassies, as oil prices spurred gasoline, heating and food shortages.

Rebels are closing in on the capital, where Gadhafi loyalists have been carrying out arrests in about one night, witnesses said.

A resident told Agence France-Presse that tanks and all terrain vehicles driven by regime partisans were patrolling almost deserted streets.

"This escape of mine makes me feel I am in heaven," said Mohammed Seli, 63, an engineer in the first batch of Indian evacuees to return home.

"The riots came and I put the loads on my neck. He took all my belongings—laptop, chairs, even my car. My loyal comrades every day ... People have to go without food and water for three or four days as the situation there is bad. People are on the streets ... police stations have been burnt down. There is no safety, no police."

Libya's former justice minister announced he was forming a transitional government to replace Gadhafi's crumbling regime, which rose controversially into power in 1969 in a coup around the capital and a few hazy, late hostages in the arid south.

Mustafa Abdel Jalil said the new administration would include commanders of the regular army south of which has defected to the opposition, and would paint the navy for free and fair elections in three months' time.

"Our national government has military and civilian personalities. It will lead for no more than three months, and then there will be fair elections and the people will choose their leader," Abdel Jalil told reporters in the eastern town of Al-Baida, an opposition stronghold.

It was not immediately clear whether other cities that liberated themselves had coordinated the move with Abdel Jalil, who resigned on Monday in protest of the increasingly deadly crackdown on opposition to the regime.

Gadhafi son, Seif al-Islam, once regarded as a reformist possibility, said the crisis had "opened the doors to a civil war."

Amid growing shortages in the import-dependent oil-producing North African nation, people joined long queues for bread and petrol on Saturday.

The UN World Food Program warned on Friday that the food distribution system was "at risk of collapsing" in a mainly desert nation which is heavily dependent on imports.

In Libya's third city Misrata, which fell to the opposition in deadly clashes over the past few days, helicopter-borne regime mercenaries fired on a funeral procession, a witness told Agence France-Presse.

Heavy weapons fire was heard in the background as the witness said by telephone that the hired mercenaries who were shooting were a minority.

The mercenaries also fired on a building housing an opposition radio station. It was unclear if there were casualties.

Libya's foreign legion of domestic helpers, construction workers and oil executives were among thousands scrambling to evacuate by air, land and sea. More than 50,000 people have fled through the Nalut border crossing on Libya's western, Tunisian frontier alone. AFP

A YOUTH tears down Gadhafi's portrait at the Brega oil complex. AP

China police smother protest

SHANGHAI—Large numbers of police—and new tactics like shrill whistles and street cleaning cycles—squelched overt protests in China for a second Sunday in a row after calls for peaceful gatherings modeled on recent democratic movements in the Middle East.

At one end of Shanghai's People's Square, uniformed police blew whistles nonstop and shouted at people to keep moving, though about 200 people in a semblance of onlookers and quiet sympathizers—formed this cordon.

In Beijing, trucks normally used to water the streets down repeatedly by the busy commercial shopping district sprayed water and bumped crowds pressed to the edges.

Foreign journalists met with tighter police controls. In Shanghai, authorities called foreign reporters on Sunday and warned them to stay away from the protest sites, while police in Beijing followed some reporters and blocked those with cameras from entering the Wangfujing shopping street where protests were called.

Dozens also detained several Chinese activists detained several (Internet, at least two in Beijing and four in Shanghai, putting them into vans and driving them away, though officials did not give a reason.

The more heated response compared with last week drawn from the Chinese state's calls for protest fears left the authoritarian government on edge.

Unlike Egypt and Tunisia where popular frustrations with economic malaise added fuel to popular protests to oust autocratic leaders, China has a booming economy and rising living standards. Still, the leadership is battling inflation and worries that demonstration movements could take root if unchallenged.

"Rapid inflation affects people's livelihoods and may affect social stability," Premier Wen Jiabao said in an online chat on Sunday. He later added: "I know the impact that protests can create is extremely and undoubtedly aware of [their] extreme importance."

The initial online call for protests that first circulated on an overseas Chinese news website 10 days ago called for Chinese to imitate the "Jasmine Revolutions" that started in Tunisia two months ago, to gather peacefully at sites in 13 cities. As it neared, and earlier this week organized the target cities to 27.

While the origins of the calls are not known, police have questioned, photographed and detained dozens of people.

At least five have been detained on subversion or national security charges, in some cases for posting on information about the protest calls. AP

SPORTS
Editor Tobbyboy S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

WHAT'S INSIDE
A world title at last for Orcollo
/A32

Rain or Shine stops Danridge, Meralco

See story on A30

RAIN OR SHINE's Hassan Adams (6) tries past Meralco's Sunday import Tony Danridge in a elimination-game play in last night's game at the Cuneta Astrodome.

FBN COMMISSIONER'S CUP
SUNDAY WEDNESDAY
(GAME DETAILS)

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Nissan Extends Year of the Rabbit Promo

Nissan Motor Philippines, Inc. (NMPI) comes in prosperity and good fortune in the Year of the Metal Rabbit with its "Prolific" promo packages where customers can avail of as much as 12 monthly payments for free when they purchase selected Nissan models, never before offered in the market.

The promo, which is extended to run until March, also offers a selection of attractive financing packages that include low down payment, low monthly amortization and zero percent interest terms.

"Based on the market data's characteristics, 2011 is expected to be a moderate year with an easygoing pace. As such, we at Nissan aim to provide Filipinos with fun-to-drive in a relaxed and more affordable payment scheme," said Dennis Pestre, Marketing and Sales Group Head.

Customers who will choose to avail the REDUCED PAYMENT PERIOD can get as to 12 months free out of the regular 60-month term with 20 percent downpayment. For the Grand Livina 1.8MT Elite, pay only for 54 months and save as much as P59,842. Get six months free monthly payments also for the Sentra 200 2.0 MT and save P10,738; X-TRAIL 2.0 4x2 can save P15, 666; and X-TRAIL CVT 2.0 4x2 can save P60,920. Meanwhile, purchasing Sentra 1.8 MT GSX and Sentra 1.8MT SE CVT comes with free 12 monthly payments, which translates to P130,000 and P84,078 savings, respectively.

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To maximize value-for-money, customers can also enjoy 0% INTEREST for up to 36 months with 50 percent down payment for the Grand Livina 1.8 MT Elite, Sentra200 2.0 MT and X-TRAIL 2.0 4F 4x2.

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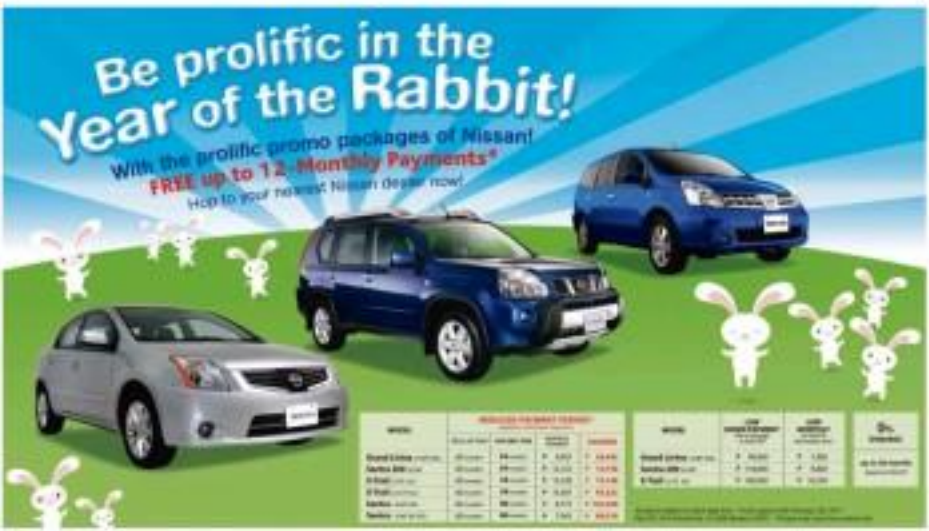

60th PAL INTERCLUB CHAMPIONS Members of the victorious Del Monte Golf Club pose with PAL President and COO Jaime Bautista (standing, fifth from left) and lawyer Gluminga Guerrero, Senior AVP for Mindanao Sales (standing, fifth from right) during the awarding ceremonies at the Lim Ket Kai Install Cagayan de Oro City after winning the 60th Philippine Airlines golf tournament. Members of the team are team captain Ramon Neko (standing, center) Chris Monsalve, Benny Abalos, Magno Arenson, Julius Bautista, Mallorence Cubillo, Leonard Lafranco, Vince Lamorin, Noel Langgamin and Mark Montilla.

SEA Games dangle 542 gold medals in 42 events

By Mari Anthony Reyes

THE SOUTHEAST Asian Games in Indonesia in November will have 42 sports and 542 events, including previously outlawed cricket plus the workouts and bumps.

In a report carried by the Jakarta Post, Indonesian National Sports Committee chair Rita Subowo said the final roster of sports was approved during the SEA Games Federation Council meeting last Friday in Nusa Dua in Bali.

The meeting was attended by 10 sports officials from the 11 participating countries, including Asia from the Philippines – Philippine Olympic Committee chair Monico Puentevella, POC secretary general Steve Hontiveros and POC officials Julius Camacho and Manny Lopez.

"As every will not be excluded if five countries have already confirmed their participation in that event beforehand, even if some of the countries withdraw later," Subowo told the Jakarta Post.

But the decision to keep the list of 42 sports intact drew flak from several delegation members, including former PSC boxing chief Lopez.

"I am really confused," Lopez said, in a report carried by the Jakarta news agency. "The decision on the number of sports [to be disputed in the Games] should have been made 12 months ago."

The Philippines tried to include rugby and several events where it has strong medal chances but eventually managed to get the council's approval only for billiards and chess.

Malaysia's Dato Zolkania Ahmad also expressed disappointment after failing to get cricket, basketball, football and hockey included in the final roster.

The Games will be held in Palembang and Jakarta from Nov. 11 to 25.

The SEA Games Federation will again meet in Indonesia in July to check on the progress of the country's venues at the Games facilities.

The Jakarta Post said seven more venues have yet to be completed including those in water skiing, softball, baseball, beach volleyball, cliff diving, roller skating and petanque.

Indonesia set aside a budget of $243.8 million for the Games with funds coming from the government and private sponsors.

Canlubang plans pullout over new Interclub format

By Manny R. Castillo

LAGUNA'S 101 OHO—Philippine Airlines Interclub powerhouse Canlubang, the regular three's champions in eight of the last 11 years, is contemplating taking a leave of absence next year in protest of a new tournament format that puts more emphasis on age.

Luigi Lim, the league bureau' longtime nonplaying skipper and former endorser, said the new rule has prevented the Laguna-based team from putting together the best squad possible.

Canlubang saw its five-year reign come to an end Saturday in Pueblo de Oro here after failing to make a dent in six overnight 12-point lead by eventual champion Del Monte.

But losing wasn't the reason why Lim is thinking of pulling out his squad.

"Coming over here does not involve small money," Felo said. "I cannot justify to my board why our team did not win because we don't have the players we have available [to use multiple players in the tournament]."

The new Interclub "cap" limited teams to 36 players with a total PAL Points' average (PPA) of 62. The rule hit Canlubang the hardest as it had to drop amateur standouts like Jesse Balandan to meet the cap.

A player's PPA is computed based on past performances in the Interclub, and Canlubang's players had less PPA because of meriting rounds.

Organizers implemented the cap supposedly to level the playing field in a tournament that had become the preserve of teams that boast the deepest stables like Manila Southwoods, Canlubang and The Country Club.

The Country Club earlier withdrew from the tournament, citing "unforeseen circumstances" as reason for its failure to form a team.

"How can we develop players if they can't play here," Felo said.

Meanwhile, Eagle Ridge shot 108 points at Pueblo de Oro to edge Intrabogan, 406-405, for the three-peat Interclub Division championship.

Eagle Ridge drew 31 points from Lawrence Celestino, 28 from Manfred Guangco, 26 from Fino Pio-Che and rather the 23s of Marlon Villanueva and Carlos Dino for the squad's closing score.

Lamp Guangchua posted 200 games for third place.

PGA BC topped the 9-meeting class with 90 points as Del Monte in Manolo Pontoti, Dalmacio, for a 459 total, 28-four of first-round leader UP Soc Jose.

Major sponsors were Pocjic Asia, IOG-1 Economy, III Amateurs, Asia Brewery and Tournament the Dimes.

Also lending support were corporate sponsors Maxis Bulletin and Bombo Radyo Philippines, while minor sponsors are Lufthansa Technik Philippines, Manufacturers and Century Park Hotel. Prize dinners included Panasonic Airconditioning Sandoway.

Rain or Shine stops Meralco

By Jaime Navarro

RAIN OR SHINE shot down the Tony Boundtop Dash Meraz in the second half and rolled to a 101-92 victory over Meralco last night in the PBA Commissioner's Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The Elasto Painters finally put the nails on the high-flying Meralco squad as used to Ryan Reyes and Hassan Adams in the closing minutes as Rain or Shine grabbed the early lead with two straight wins.

Alaska marched the Elasto Painters' 2-0 start by upping Barangay Ginebra, 95-94, in the second game.

"Once we stopped Jawaiian Brad-Alaska the ball, we started to play defense," said Rain or Shine coach Yeng Guiao.

Jawaiian, who won the 2009 D-1 NCAA dark dunk contest while playing for New Mexico, was unstoppable in the open floor, unleashing 19 of his 31 points in the first half behind an assortment of dunks to the delight of the crowd.

"That's our feat. If we let him out in the open court, it will be a dunking exhibition," said Guiao.

The Elasto Painters then fed Jawaiian's rolling ball, so they'd have

Kaymer takes top spot, reaches final vs Donald

MARAKA, ARIZONA—Germany's no-nod Martin Kaymer reached the final of the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship on Saturday to ensure he will take over as world number one when the new rankings are issued on Monday.

Kaymer beat American Bubba Watson, one up, in a closely contested semi-final at Dove Mountain's Ritz-Carlton Golf Club and will face Britain's Luke Donald in Sunday's title match.

In form Donald crushed American Matt Kuchar, 4&3, on a blustery afternoon in the Arizona desert to give him still a chance of climbing to a career high third in next week's rankings.

Kaymer, the second seed for the elite World Golf Championships, said his hands fell against the big hitting Watson in a frustrating contest.

"It was always up and down," the 26-year-old German told reporters. "He was one up, I was one up. I don't think we played very good golf scoring wise, but we kept ourselves alive.

"It was a long day, for sure. It was mentally very difficult as well. But the good thing is there's only one more round to go."

Kaymer, who survived a shaky finish in the morning to beat Spaniard Miguel Angel Jimenez, one up, in the quarter-finals, went one up on Watson at the first, sealed by one after eight holes and then built a two-up lead with two to play.

Watson kept the match alive by striking a six-foot birdie putt at the par-four 17th to trim Kaymer's advantage to dormie one.

Watson was then bunkered off the tee at the par-four 18th and ended up just short of the green with his approach after his ball spun back off the front edge.

Kaymer, straight down the middle with his drive, struck his second shot over the bank of the green after being between clubs before chipping back seven feet past the cup.

Watson hit his third shot to within five feet of the hole before the German coolly rolled in his par to seal victory.

Reuters

MARTIN Kaymer of Germany watches his tee-shot on the 11th hole.

Can the NY Knicks make it three?

ONE GAME AT A TIME

Sue Saxowsky

NEW YORK CITY: Unidentified in love with the fast pace of life, the conversation of past and present and the possibility of new discoveries at every corner.

Most of us can probably afford only a day or two in the Big Apple and take only one Broadway play, hop on a bus to have your picture taken at the Statue of Liberty or visit a museum.

For those to move with the flow in New York as a day will never be enough to take in the whole city.

As a parents waiter once told me, "You gotta be on New York time!"

Life throbs and flows in New York and this spills over to sports.

There are two baseball teams to choose from, a hockey and football team and a handful of colleges in different sports leagues.

***

But it's basketball that grabs the city's collective attention because New Yorkers have always adopted hoops as their game.

They've played it in their schools and playgrounds and age doesn't really matter as long as you still have the prospects to play.

The New York Knicks' 1972/1973 title is still remembered fondly and has been elevated to mythic proportions.

The team's starting unit of guards Walt Frazier and Dick Barnett, forwards Bill Bradley and Dave Debusschere and center Willis Reed were five separate parts that worked as one unit as both ends of the floor, unselfish individual achievements for the team.

Part of the myth is Reed's dramatic entry into the court when a big injury could have prevented him from playing in the decisive seventh game in Madison Gardens.

Reed's appearance and hit his first two shots in the game and that was all the Knicks needed from their battling captain to end the title against the Los Angeles Lakers who had Jerry West, Elgin Baylor and Wilt Chamberlain.

***

Of course, the Knicks were again in 1973 but not with the same magic as it did three years before.

Since that time, the Knicks have had the Bernard King and Patrick Ewing era but no more titles.

Patrick Ewing's best era and cruel about their Knicks, anxiously waiting for the next best basketball savior to arrive.

And that's why the Knicks recent infusion of great talent is being eyed with both delight and trepidation. New York Knicks fans are used and quick to express both loyalty and disdain if the Knicks don't live up to their expectations.

One wonders how much time will be needed for the superior combination of Amare Stoudemire, Carmelo Anthony and Chauncey Billups to really jell and produce a team that will go deep into the playoffs.

To date, the Knicks are sixth in the East with a 29-27 record. The Miami Heat sport a .611.14 mark while the Boston Celtics tote a 42-13-ratio.

The Knicks muscle the trade now since they had the chance to do it as part of their rebuilding.

However, unlike the Dwayne Wade, Chris Bosh and LeBron James arrival in Miami, the Knicks don't have the same luxury of time and the competition will use several months as playoff jitter dancing time to us.

The Knicks shouldn't be rushed really but that's easier said than done in a town that wants everything moving, especially in basketball!

Terry lifts Mavs past Wizards

CELTICS forward Glen Davis shoots over Clippers center Chris Kaman during second half action of their NBA match.

WASHINGTON—The Dallas Mavericks got a game-high 35 points from Jason Terry and held off a late charge by the Washington Wizards for a 103-99 victory on Saturday that marked the team's fifth straight win.

Washington looked headed for a surprise win when a 19-foot jumper from Jordan Crawford capped an 8-0 run that gave the host the game at 97-97 with 1:56 left.

However, Tyson Chandler put the Mavericks back in front with a putback, while Dirk Nowitzki and Terry each drained a pair of free throws that gave Dallas a 103-97 lead with 37 seconds remaining.

"You're up nine in the fourth early, that's a situation where you kind of want to go up 15, for your losses and get on the bus," Terry said. "It didn't happen, but at the end of the day we want wins."

The win moved the Mavericks (42-16) to within six games of the Western Conference-leading San Antonio Spurs, while the Wizards (15-43), losers of five straight, are second last in the Eastern Conference.

In Los Angeles, Paul Pierce scored 24 points, Rajon Rondo added 22, and the Boston Celtics rallied in the second half against the Clippers for their fourth victory in five games, 99-92.

Kevin Garnett had 16 points and 11 rebounds for the defending Eastern Conference champions, who began the process of integrating newcomers Jeff Green and Nenad Krstic into their lineup after acquiring them from Oklahoma City in a trade by Sunday's deadline.

Krstic had nine points and six rebounds while starting in center for the Celtics.

Randy Foye scored 30 points and Blake Griffin added 22 points and 21 rebounds for the Clippers in their first home game since the 2-hour trip to 11 games road trip.

In Houston, Kevin Martin scored 30 points, Chase Budinger added 27 and Houston beat the New Jersey Nets, 123-108, in the Rockets' first game since trading sweep Shane Battier and Aaron Brooks.

Budinger took Battier's spot in the starting lineup and scored 6 of 11 from the field. Luis Scola added 23 points and seven rebounds for the Rockets, who've won nine straight meetings with New Jersey.

Devin Williams had 15 points and a season-high 17 assists for Dee Nets, who have lost five in a row and eight of 11.

New Jersey acquired Williams in a nine-wing trade with Utah on Wednesday giving up point guard Devin Harris, rookie forward Derrick Favors, two first-round draft picks and 23 million in cash.

In Milwaukee, Luol Deng scored 19 points and Derrick Rose had 17, leading the Chicago Bulls to victory, 85-75. In Auburn Hills, Michigan, the Detroit Pistons beat the Utah Jazz, 120-116; and in Memphis, the Grizzlies dumped the Sacramento Kings, 120-92.

Reuters, AP

Dubai: Djokovic dominates Federer

DUBAI—Defending champion Novak Djokovic won his third consecutive title at the Dubai championships on Saturday when he defeated top seed Roger Federer, 6-3, 6-3, in just 71 minutes on Saturday.

It is the 24th title of his career and his second of the year after he won the Australian Open in January.

The second seeded Serbian is the only player apart from four-time champion Federer to have won the title three times, following Federer's victories in 2003 to 2005 and 2007.

He has now won 11 straight matches in Dubai and is enjoying a career best 14-match winning streak dating back to December's Davis Cup final.

Federer looked the weaker player from the start and Djokovic survived just four points on serve in the opening set.

Djokovic was also aggressive from the baseline and he swiftly raced into a 4-0 first break of serve to lead 2-1 when Federer was hit a backhand wide.

Federer broke to lead 2-1 in the second set, but his revival was short-lived.

A netcord assist on break point saw world Djokovic re-level at 3-3 and a backhand error from the Swiss gave him a further break for 5-3 to the Serb swept on toward his latest title.

In Doha, Vera Zvonareva denied Caroline Wozniacki a double by winning their Qatar Ladies final, 6-4, 6-4.

Reuters, AP

SERBIA'S Novak Djokovic returns to Roger Federer of Switzerland during the Dubai ATP final.

Maroons nip Tigers for UAAP football crown

By Cedrik P. Tigno

UNIVERSITY OF the Philippines fashioned an timely counterattacks to subdue University of the Visayas, 2-1, and regain the UAAP men's football title before a huge crowd yesterday at Ateneo's Rizal Memorial Football Field.

Jhoshua Gerardo Velmonte struck what turned out to be the game-winner eight minutes into the second half, after assisting on Aja Ayers's opener in the 21st minute as UP finished the season unbeaten.

"We were not the most talented team, but we were simply the most hardworking and we got rewarded with this victory," said Aaro Gonzales, a former national player who coaches the Maroons with Frank Bluecrow.

"It was just a total team effort. One defense was solid."

Ayers' goal grabbed a 1-0 lead in the women's best-of-three finals, after downing UST, 2-0, on penalties.

Web Stephen Bermudez pulling the strings at midfield, the Maroons proved dangerous on the counter and a throwing move led to the first goal from just outside the box.

Bermudez evaded one challenge then delivered the ball to Velmonte who had it off the dye, whose thunderous effort went straight into the bottom corner.

Bermudez was later named Most Valuable Player.

CHAMPS AGAIN Members of the Ateneo track squad cheer now of Xavier School pow-wits their juniors team after winning a sixth straight Metro Manila Thing Liga basketball title. The junior Thing-led juniors squad bagged a record fourth straight crown. Xavier is backed by the alumni association.

Brobio trains Montecillo junior golfers

HONOLULU: Top Honolulu Cup bet

RAMON BROBIO, one of the country's foremost junior golf heroes, has renounced from a long stay to the United States to help prepare the country's bid for the coming The Montecillo Cup Junior Golf Team Championship on Hawaii 6 to 11 at the Mt. Maloney at Golf and Country Club in Lipa City.

Now a full-fledged professional, Brobio took over the coaching chores since last month to give the boys team a fighting chance against the region's best talents in the event honoring the late Amelia "Mommy" Montecillo, who is considered the prime mover of the junior golf movement in Asia.

Gerry Handog, chair of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines, said Brobio, a former world junior champion and the last Filipino to win the Asian Games golf gold medal in 1986 in Seoul, should also serve as inspiration for his students.

"We hope that like Ramon, more alumni of Juniorgolf would be able to help our cause and lessen the monetary and non-talent development," said Handog, who also cited Marvin Lorenzo, also a former juniorgolf ace, for throwing his full support behind the JGFP's year-round activities.

Targeting national amateur champions Clyde Mondilla, Juvic Pagunsan, Jhonnel Ababa, Iris Gabriel, Princess Superal, Dawn Ann Penaflor and Sheryl Villanueva make up the girls team.

The Montecillo Cup is sponsored by Icapoon Iron, KTM and Coca Cola distributor.

SPORTS

A world title at last for Orcollo

Filipino money-game king whips Feijen, nails 8-ball crown in UAE

THE KING of big-money tournaments is now a world champion.

Dennis Orcollo, who captured one of three gold medals for the country in the last Asian Games, finally collected the world title that has long been missing in his billiards trophy cabinets.

Orcollo completed his remarkable rise from the qualifying rounds by downing Dutch ace Niels Feijen, 10-3, Saturday night to seize the World 8-Ball Pool Championship at the Pyramids Exhibition Center in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates.

The championship capped a sensational run for Orcollo, whose partnership with Antonio Gomez nearly brought the country the World Cup of Pool title last September.

With the victory Orcollo joined a distinguished list of Filipino world champions that includes Efren "Bata" Reyes, who won the inaugural staging of this event seven years ago, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Ronnie Alcano, Alex Pagulayan and Rubilen Amit.

Underachiever

"It's a great feeling to finally win a world title," said Orcollo, who has had successes in several big-money events, but has underachieved in world championships.

Orcollo has won some of the biggest tournaments in the world, including the World Pool League, World Pool Masters, Derby City Classic, US Bar Table, Billiards Congress of America. His latest win in Fujairah was his biggest, though.

The Bulig, Surigao del Sur, native needed to make the best comeback via the loser qualifiers. And although he roared through the first round, he was sent to the losers' bracket by Efren "Bata" Reyes.

Last defeat

It was to be his last defeat as Orcollo steadily worked his way back into contention before reaching the final by ousting David "El Matador" Alcaide of Spain, 9-5.

Feijen shot out 2009 World Ten-Ball Champion Darren Appleton, 9-0, in the other semifinal duel.

The $40,000 winner's purse was one of the biggest for Orcollo, who also collected the same purse money for capturing the Qatar Open 9-ball tournament two years ago, also at the expense of Feijen.

Looking on proudly yesterday, Orcollo roomed in a 5-0 lead before Feijen managed to win three racks. But the Filipino took the next five games, capping the victory with a break and runout in the 13th rack.

Orcollo earns the 9-ball gold in the Guangzhou Asiad, a feat that spurred him the nickname of the 'best unrated' from the Philippine Sportswriters Association.

Sharing the award with Orcollo are reigning World 9-Ball champion Bustamante and his fellow Asiad gold medalist, topnotch bowler-cum-billiard ace Biboy Rivera and boxer Rey Saludar.

The annual gala event is scheduled this Saturday at the Manila Hotel.

Cedelf F. Tupas

DENNIS Orcollo displays the Philippine flag as tournament organizers congratulate him at the end of the 10-win World 8-Ball final.

BEST OF THE BEST IN '10 (l-r) PSC Chair Richie Garcia, the event's guest of honor and speaker; and Golden Wheel Foundation chair Johnny Tan (seventh and eighth from left) with the awardees (from left) Mikela Briguela Soares Lagman, the Indonesian ambassador's daughter who received the overall for Asian Karting champion Sean Gelael; Asian Karting junior champ Yasin Sanna Hamzah of Red White Racing Indonesia; Abraham Salagan Calibab (kart-off road); Glenn Aguilar (motocross); Ivan Santiago (automatic scooters); Driver of the Year Mikee Buncio; Hall of Famer Yu Beng Tek; Jaime Bautista (motocross); William Tan (ground touring); Stefano Marcelo (karting) and Jonathan Yu (drag racing).

Buncio Golden Wheel Driver of Year

By Cedelf F. Tupas

MIKEE BUNCIO shone brightest on a night when the stars of Philippine motorsports were feted.

The Superbikes champ emerged as the Golden Wheel Driver of the Year during the 8th Annual Awards Night at the Dignitan Grand Theater in Mandaluyong on Friday.

Buncio got the nod of the Awards Committee, ahead of karter Stefano Marcelo and drag racing star Jonathan Yu, for winning four straight titles in the Philippine Superbikes Championship Series, where he notches 12 elite motocross champion Glenn Aguilar and the talented 11-year-old finalist Marcelo.

The 18-year-old Marcelo clinched his third Rookie of the Year crown with an impressive season, a year after making it to the famed Daily Rail Factory team.

Yu, the winner of the Golden Wheel the past two years, was also commended for winning a record eighth straight crown, but the awards committee just sought on Sunnie's near-perfect season.

Johnny Tan, the founder of the Golden Wheel awards, expressed hopes that the awards will continue to inspire drivers.

"We hope that the Golden Wheel inspires more potential champions to carry on the dreams of serving a prominent Filipino world champion in the future," said Tan, even as he thanked the drivers and the event's sponsors and supporters.

"Racing is a sport where Filipinos can stand and be a par with the world's best."

Buncio started cruising routes in 2007 when he bagged his first overall Superbikes crown on his rookie year.

Buncio boosted his stock by setting the national lap time record of 1:37.828 in Subic in 2009. Among his other accomplishments were a second runner-up finish in the Asia Series of Road Racing in Thailand in 2008, and fourth place in the US Laguna Seca Superbikes tilt in 2008.

"I thank the Golden Wheel Awards for this reward that will serve as an inspiration for me to achieve better feats in the coming years," said Buncio.

Among the other Golden Wheel recipients were four heritage for scooters, Jaime Bautista for underhood racing, Glenn Aguilar for motocross, Marcelo for karting, Yu for drag racing, driver Ivan Santiago Collado for 4x4 off-road racing, Mat Nera for drifting, William Tan for grand touring cars, Sean Gelael for Asian senior karting and Yasin Sanna Hamzah for Asian junior karting.

The incomparable Ferdinand "Hot Shot" Marcos Jr. baby Bongbong Marcos, was honored to the Hall of Fame, joining Federico Ramirez in 2003, Dante Silverio in 2008 and Robert Aseniero last year.

Also feted during the awards were racing suzuki GSV 11 for its 32 title for the "X-Treme Racing & Clothing" segment; racing TV5 for the Car Crash Challenge segment; Ayala Alabang's baby Bonito's segment and the location for its motorsports stories, as well as assistant sports editor Francis T. J. Ochoa for his article "Czar of the Speedway."

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Yakult 10-Miler kicks off March 27 at CCP

ABOUT 1,500 runners are expected to answer the starter's gun when the 32nd Annual Yakult 10-Miler fires off on March 27 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex in Manila.

Defending champions Hesron Bitwa and Maricel Magadan head the list of top runners and a horde of upcoming long-distance racers vying in the 32nd edition of the country's premier 10-mile race that also finishes at the CCP.

Lining starts today at Shinnen-zushi at Tektite Mall in Quezon City, SM Megamall, and Bonifacio High Street in Global City.

Registration fee is P500. Deadline for listing is March 13.

Participants will receive singlet, and all finishers will get Yakult T-shirts, certificate of completion and Yakult health drink.

Trophies and merchandise will also be dispensed in the 5K fun run and a 3K children race, according to Michael Ong, manager for sales and planning of Yakult Philippines.

The top three finishers in both the men's and women's 10-miler will win cash prizes.

Hesron and Magadan won with a time of 55:15.5 (1) and 1:05.34, respectively, last year.

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B-LEAGUE-TV5 PARTNERSHIP TV5 president and CEO Ray Espinosa (second from left) and National Collegiate Billiards League president Nel de Leon join (with a handshake) representatives of tournament sponsors. TV5 the official carrier of the B-League starting with the quarterfinal matches. Also in photo are B-League treasurer and tournament director Vera Mariano and TV5 EVP-COO Roberto Barreiro.

Jr Davis Cuppers gain final qualifying

THE PHILIPPINES, powered by age-group stalwart Jerome Jerome Mendoza, hosted four other nations recently to reach the Junior Davis Cup final qualifying stage in India this April.

Mendoza and teammates Jacob Lagman and Romnee Kyle Joseph showed superb form in downing Bhutan (3-0), India (2-1), Syria (2-1) and host Sri Lanka (3-2) in the Asia/Oceania pre-qualifying stage held in Colombo.

The 14-year-old Mendoza, who is ranked 600th among the world's juniors, scored eight wins in six matches.

Lagman, 15, posted four wins against two losses in the pre-qualifying competition, while Joseph, also 14, had a 1-1 slate.

National coach Roland Nazareno said the Philippines advanced undefeated to the semifinal round, including powerhouse teams from Australia, China, Uzbekistan, India, South Korea and defending champion Japan, to the final qualifying stage set April 18 to 23 in New Delhi.

"We're very confident we're hoping to get into the top four of the stage to reach the World Junior Davis Cup scheduled in September in Mexico.

Marc Anthony Reyes

ICS RENTALS

Editor Raul G. Manuel • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Savha
BRAIN

DOTC says Ro-Ro ports project overpriced

Gov't to renegotiate terms with French firm

By Paolo G. Montecillo

ONE OF the previous administration's landmark infrastructure projects—the construction of 72 roll-on, roll-off (Ro-Ro) ports around the country—was overpriced by more than 138 percent, according to documents from the Department of Transportation and Communications.

The 130 million-euro Grande Maritime Access or GMA Ports project aimed to establish some 72 modular Ro-Ro ports to help improve linkages among the country's islands.

However, a recent study by the DOTC, a copy of which was obtained by the Inquirer, showed that the cost of the ports to be built by the project's French contractor, Eiffel Masters, was estimated to be more than double the price of those soon to be built by a local supplier.

Under the project's terms, each of the 72 ports would cost P145.5 million to build. However, the DOTC said that based on its studies, if built locally, each port with the same quality would cost the government only P60 million.

The project was to be funded by an overseas development assistance (ODA) loan from French bank BNP Paribas. One of the conditions for the loan, which would carry interest rates much lower than what was

DOTC | B3

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Feb. 25, 2011
43.710

STOCK MARKET
Feb. 25, 2011
6.2

Mideast crisis to dampen trading

ESCALATING TURMOIL in the Middle East/North Africa area is seen keeping investors on the sidelines this week as the resurgence of global oil prices past the $100-a-barrel tempers risk-taking.

Last week, the main Philippine Stock Exchange index fell 0.67 percent to close at 3,737.34 on Friday. Bargain hunters started to come out as many stocks had fallen to attractive levels, but jitters over

MARKET | B4

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Saving the best for last

THE ENTRY act of the country's new generation peso bills is now officially in circulation after the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas released the last series into the market last Friday.

Before last week, the BSP had gradually been introducing the new series, starting with the P20 and P50 bills over the Christmas holidays, followed by the gradual release of the P1,000, P200 and P100 bills in the last two months.

The "plenty do resistance", however, was the eagerly anticipated yellow P500 bill, which had the unusual feature of having the images of both the late President Cory Aquino and the martyred Sen. Ninoy Aquino Jr., and signed by no less than their son, President Benigno S. Aquino III.

Thus the historic design combined with the 25th anniversary celebration of the Edsa People Power revolt was clearly not lost on BSP's brass... who decided to release the new bills into circulation last Friday... the exact date that the revolution was won.

Jhaemi L. Lucas

MVP strikes again

IF SOME mining stocks have fizzled quickly in the stock market recently, it's not just due to the uptrend in global commodity prices. There's an increasing bet on a mining deal between the First Pacific group led by Manuel V. Pangilinan and mining magnate Felipe Yap's Manila Mining.

If the grapevine is correct... Manila Mining will cede to First Pacific, through local mining platform Philex, 60 percent control of the former's copper-gold mining project Kalayaan, the next door neighbor of Philex' Silangkan along the Agusan-Surigao corridor in Mindanao.

The speculation is that Yap is getting a much better deal now that he's not hard-pressed to take to a new investor (after last year striking a plum bet in deal with Gold Fields exec Lorenzo Mining's northern Luzon project for Southeast Gold Resources) and of course, with commodity prices moving in his favor.

Yap is said to be moving more aggressively to develop the mining claims, not just to prepare for retirement, but to ensure that the projects will go live if and when the government makes good its threat to revoke long-dormant mining concessions. Even by keeping only 40 percent of the Kalayaan project (like in Far South, east), Yap is unlocking values in a great timing. What was earlier perceived to be his chilly-dally-ing has paid off.

Philex, whose 2010 core net profit (up 224 percent to P4.15 billion) had pleased its investors, will also benefit from a prospective Manila Mining deal as this will keep the cobaseltile business, rolling for a longer time.

Doris C. Dumlao

OBP then and now

PHWY is the financial community one mentions when you're in what role the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines will play in the administration of President Aquino.

The guessing game extends even into the business press whose incendiary boys not to be introduced as DBP's media-shy president, Francisco del Rosario Jr. (in contrast to his predecessor, Reynaldo Ravel, who made it a habit to feed the press about the bank's investments).

The company planner as DBP's unusual performance in recent years showed that Del Rosario has big shoes to fill.

In the five years before David became DBP president, the bank earned a total of P9.3 billion. During the five-year tenure of Ravel from 2005 to 2009, the bank raked in a cumulative net income of P18.2 billion, representing a jump of 95 percent (the global financial crisis, notwithstanding).

According to sources among the administration's economic managers, DBP will play a key role in implementing President Aquino's Public-Private Partnership scheme—a virtual reincarnation of the role the bank had played in the previous administration.

Of course, the proof of the pudding will be in the eating, so to speak. **Doris C. Dumlao**

As good as confirmed

ALL eyes will be on the confirmation hearings of the Commission on Appointments this Wednesday when Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima goes before the influential body.

A lot is resting on the outcome of the confirmation hearings, which is seen as a litmus test of the Aquino administration's ability to work with lawmakers whose agenda are not always aligned with that of the President.

In particular, people will be watching how the Palace operatives will handle certain opposition lawmakers, as well as one particular senator who is seen to be aligned with the so-called "Noynoy bloc" (but not to the anti-original Estrada member).

Purisima's crucial role comes as he's entrusted as the frontperson that he runs in the corridors of the current administration's economic agenda. He is also the main architect of the Public-Private Partnership scheme.

Word on the street is that the de facto head of President Aquino's economic team will likely breeze through the confirmation hearings after he assured the backing of at least two business tycoons from both sides of the political fence. **Jhaemi L. Lucas**

Still no SEC chair

THE market is still eagerly awaiting who the next SEC chair will be. And wondering why P-Noy has not announced a successor to outgoing SEC Chair Fe Barin whose term will expire this month.

In no civil reality, two names have been floated previously... incumbent Commissioner Antonio Cuesta and Prudential Commissioner and Local Government Chair Juan Andres "Andy" Bautista.

But a third name has recently sprung out as a potential SEC chair—that of former Philippine Stock Exchange president Ramon S. Gorriz or ex-SEC head who served in the first Aquino administration, after some people "in the loop" heard that this 82-year-old gentleman was interested in coming for a seat on the PSE board, his name surfaced as a potential SEC chair.

Doris C. Dumlao

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Crisis in Mideast, N. Africa spooks PH markets

By Doris C. Dumlao

AN ESCALATING political upheaval in the oil-rich Middle East-North Africa region is not just causing considerably violent—unlike the peaceful mass uprising that toppled the Marcos dictatorship 25 years ago...is sending shells to Philippine financial markets given the consequent skyrocketing of oil prices and the simultaneous of overseas Filipino workers.

Thus an unforeseen geopolitical risks with a direct bearing on the Philippines, a major oil importer and labor exporter to the region. But for as long as the turmoil does not spread to other Arab nations, particularly Saudi Arabia, the country is seen to good fundamental po-

sition to withstand external shocks.

"It's a geopolitical event that many of us did not expect to happen, unlike the South Korean tsunami. It's already in our radar screen," said Robert Jeandebu Deyo, executive vice president of First Metro Investment Corp.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index has lost 462.96 points or 11 percent since the start of the year as the turmoil in the Middle East-North Africa region aggravated inflation concerns across Asian emerging markets. From a high of nearly 4,400 in November last year, the index is now back at the 3,900 levels.

Deyo said the turmoil in that region was now a greater concern for local markets compared to the fiscal problems in Europe due to the "direct bearing" on oil prices and supply of OFWs in the Middle East. "All bets are off," he said, if the upheaval were to affect other Arab nations.

Saudi Arabia accounts for 10.3 percent of global oil supply and is the biggest member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. About 41 percent of global oil requirements are supplied by Opec.

"While democracy may be serving a victory in the region, this should be seen as a potential area of concern for the Philippines," said Manuel Lee Yangco, head of research at local stock brokerage Campos Lanuza & Co. "A further deterioration of the social situation in the region could eventually lead to volatile OFW inflows as actual and potential jobs could be lost if governments fall like in the case of Libya—and Bahrain."

The government is now considering to limit the deployment of more OFWs to the region.

"Unless the displaced workers and the applicants for jobs in the countries covered by the ban are able to find jobs elsewhere, funding for social services will proportionately rise, not to mention the social discontent borne by idle labor. On this end, the leadership will once more be hard-pressed to keep the budget deficit, programmed for 2011 at P297 billion, in check," said Jesmico Calayag Jr., a dealer at Accord Capital Equities Corp.

Estelito Mendoza, vice president for treasury at Bank of the Philippine Islands, said the eventual might

(more on B2)

DOTC says Ro-Ro . . .

from page B1

available from other banks, was that no bidding to ensure a contractor would be held.

Instead, BSP Bothus would have the freedom to choose its own contractor. The bank picked a local French company, industrial giant Eiffel Makers, to implement the project.

In its computation and analysis, the DOTC found that the biggest disparity in the prices would come from the port structure itself. Eiffel Makers estimated such "unpaved surface" would cost P102.3 million. Including the same structure in the country would only cost P20 million.

The benefit of being able to access the cheap funds, a ranking DOTC official said, would be more than offset by the incidence of having to pay for an expensive project.

The French company said that some two-thirds of the parts would be built and assembled in France before being imported to the Philippines, it would naturally be more expensive. The company also claimed to have built the ports using copyrighted designs.

In a letter, Eiffel Makers said the technology, quality of steel used, the steel reinforcements and durability of components, among others, were behind the higher price of the ports.

But not only were the ports significantly more expensive, more than half of the ports were to be built in places where they were not needed.

"There are a lot of potential 'white elephants' here. The country only needs less than 30 ports out of the proposed 70," a DOTC official said, citing estimates made by the Philippine Ports Authority.

In some instances, the ports were also too big and too expensive for the areas that they were intended to serve.

Mideast crisis to dampen ...

From page B1

the crisis in the Middle East were preventing them from taking big positions.

"The possible impact of a protracted crisis in the region is manifold and all may adversely impact on government's stated economic targets," said Antoine Calayaan Jr., a dealer at local stockbrokerage Accord Capital Equities Corp.

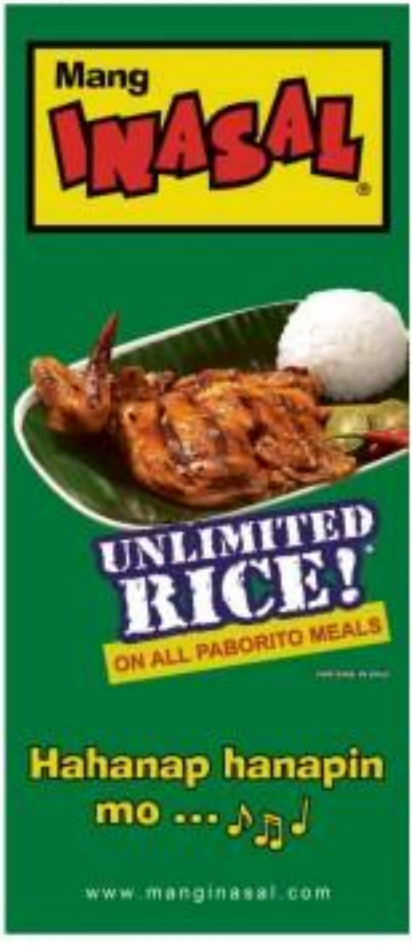
Calayaan said the immediate effect was already being felt with oil and commodity prices rising, in turn prompting local oil companies to jack up pump prices of fuel. "Prices of basic commodities are going to rise as well as input and transportation costs adjust to the changes," he said.

The upheaval has likewise caused the displacement of overseas workers and forced the government to implement a travel ban to Libya, Bahrain and Yemen.

"Thus, we are likely to see local equity investors hesitating to make early bets on listed firms' forward earnings, at least until some clarity emerges on the resolution of the conflict, as well as a perception of similarly inspired uprisings in neighboring and peripheral countries," Calayaan said.

The dealer said the next immediate support for the index was at 3,700, a reversal of the local market's uptrend could be confirmed, he said, if the current slump would fall below the 3,640 mark. "A break below such first cutoffs will be," he said.

Apart from the concerns over the Middle East and North Africa, Calayaan said inflationary risks across the region were another market dampener. Doris C. Bonifacio



LET'S STAY TOGETHER

PLDT, THE LEADING TELCO, ENABLES IP-CONVERGE VIA IPLC AND PHIX.

There is a gender telecommunications agenda for the Philippines. PLDT, as the carrier of all carriers, is the infrastructure source for numerous smaller players in the industry, and is the key initiative to bring the country up to world-class speed. It is regarded as the creator of opportunity, enabling all forms of business.

One such partner in the nation-building effort is IP-Converge. The company provides managed data carrier and businesses solutions at international standards, following the "boutique" approach customized to a particular client's requirements. Being the first and only Internet Data Center and Cloud Services Provider listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE: CLOUD), and an ISO 9001:2008 Certified company, the foundation of the company's business is centered on customer satisfaction through high-quality on-time delivery, and that's where PLDT enables IP-Converge with various international and domestic networking solutions.

IP-Converge operates telecommunity Internet data center facilities in the Philippines that connect to the world through the company's international hub (point of presence) in Hong Kong. IP-Converge upholds its carrier and vendor-neutrality by pairing with PLDT in the Philippines and in the Asia Pacific region, and by partnering with the world's leading hardware and software providers. Through PLDT's robust international network infrastructure and business relationships with global giants, IP-Converge is able to offer world-class IP-based solutions and services. IP-Converge President Rene Hurtado underscored his absolute satisfaction with the partnership, "PLDT will always be a preferred partner."

PLDT owns and operates nine landing stations in diverse locations, serving international connectivity requirements of over nine Philippine telcos and Global Service Providers. PLDT's multibillion-dollar investments in regional and global cable systems have built the most number of cable systems on-ramps. Its first among Philippine telcos with capacity on APCN2, APCN2, GC (MBD), and AAG cable systems. This enables the full diversity of PLDT's international connectivity solutions.

PLDT provides IP-Converge with unparalleled domestic capacity, resiliency, and reach through its Domestic Fiber Optic Network (DFON) backbone, ensuring quality and reliable transmission of IP-Converge's data and voice traffic throughout the Philippines. With more than 10,000 km of fiber optic cables rolled out and an inherent self-healing capability, PLDT's DFON provides IP-Converge with an optimum platform to support their projected growth requirements.

At the recent meeting of the two companies for a contract signing followed by a negotiation lunch, Rene Hurtado further addressed the value of the partnership, "The drivers look up to PLDT as the leading telco. We have always wanted to establish a relationship with you (PLDT). Pat we you are taking care of our requirements. You've always been there. Every time we pick up the phone, your Relationship Manager is always there."

PLDT Senior Vice President and Head of Customer Sales and Marketing Group Eric Alberto responded in kind, "We are truly privileged to be in a relationship with IP-Converge and we look forward to more years of mutually beneficial relationship. There is a rich history between IP-Converge and PLDT. And the future brings challenges to both our companies to be major ICT enablers of this country."

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WESM to free up power capacity in Mindanao

Spot market seen to reduce outages on the island

By Amy R. Remo

AT LEAST 130 megawatts in additional capacity will be freed up in Mindanao, once the government has established the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) on the island.

WESM is expected to reduce, if not eliminate, the spate of rotating brownouts in Mindanao.

According to Luis Miguel Aboitiz, MST for trading and marketing at the Aboitiz Power Corp. (APC), there are a lot of factories in Mindanao that have their own diesel power plants.

Once WESM is established, these factories will be allowed to sell a portion of their generated power on the market. This will help solve the power supply problem in Mindanao, Aboitiz said.

"After the successful experience with WESM Visayas, the government is now studying the implementation of PSOM in Mindanao. If they do that, then I think it will free up a lot of additional power in Mindanao," he explained.

WESM, which is operated by the Philippine Electricity Market Corp. (PEMC), is similar to the Philippine Stock Exchange. But instead of stocks, electricity is the commodity that is traded on the floor.

The spot market is significant because it will provide power generation companies an assured platform where they can sell their electricity to distribution utilities and cooperatives at competitive prices.

WESM operations in Luzon started in 2006. In the Visayas, operations only began last December.

Aboitiz believes that setting up and implementing WESM in Mindanao will be easier compared to the Visayas ex-

more on B2

A Vision for Success

Eyewear retailer Ideal Vision goes global with PLDT SME Nation

You could say that Ideal Vision has grown with the Filipino consumer. The world renowned designer frames and sunglasses that specializes in eye consultations, refractions, eyewear, contact lenses and frames is looking towards the future of borderless and serving Filipinos abroad. From a small operation begun by Mr. Benito and Dr. Mary Chan in 1986, the company now has 87 branches nationwide and is celebrating their 25th Anniversary this year.

The Expansion

With a branch in Guam and another one opening soon in California, the company's needs for business networking and communications are increasing. "We've been doing all the processes manually, sales reports were not real-time and monitoring remote sites would require that much travel time just to be there," says Dr. Joy Go, AVP for Marketing. "Sending information to remote sites is too troublesome, and calling branches too costly."

The Solution

Ideal Vision turned to PLDT's **Internet Protocol Virtual Private Network (IPVPN)**. "IPVPN made it possible for our remote sites to be interlinked with our head office," says Dr. Go. The IPVPN is a secured data connectivity designed to link multi-site branches' computers and POS or point-of-sale systems.

Ideal Vision enjoys several advantages from IPVPN such as real-time update of sales and inventory reports and faster sharing of information for their employees. In addition, stores can also access patient records, whether they are in the Philippines, Guam or California.

"It's the first time we will be using this kind of technology. We are looking forward to the improvement of our manual processes like time attendance, POS, security camera setup, Internet, access to remote site's database and gathering of statistics", says Dr. Go.

"All the necessary information needed by upper management can be gathered, without the need to be physically present at the site."

"The mission of PLDT SME Nation is to create solutions for the Filipino entrepreneur. We're happy to help Ideal Vision make that next step in becoming a truly global company," says PLDT VP and SME Nation Head Ezel Lois Abalos-de.

By choosing a reliable service partner in PLDT SME Nation, Ideal Vision can continue to address the health needs of Filipinos in more markets as they open more branches overseas, ensuring high performance electronic connectivity will help their business growth for their next 25 years.

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Frankly, not my deal

THE ONGS fans called Siqua must have found a new ally in the Department of Finance to help it push its P1.8 billion deal with the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

As we all know, during the corrupt administration of Ebenezria, Siqua tried but failed to land the 100 contract for an added security stamp on tobacco products.

Supposedly, through Siqua's technology, the government would earn some P120 billion in additional revenue in only seven years from the tobacco industry.

In other words, the tobacco industry, particularly cigarette companies, has been cheating the government this much in excise tax payments.

Government institutions refuted Siqua's fantastic claim. They include the Smile, the National Tax Research Center, and Finance Representatives.

For one, Siqua could not provide a basis for its claim, saying only that it was lifted from international studies. Hmmm.

Sir, that unsupported claim—as addressed P120 billion in tax collections—was the reason why the government had to pay Siqua some P1.8 billion for its technology.

If Siqua's assumption had been wrong, the government would end up losing in the P1.6 billion contract.

Then the Siqua project was derailed under the new administration.

Now, under the Aquino [Part II] administration of our leader Benigno Simeon (aka BS), the Swiss company is making another big push for its project with the BIR.

And Siqua seems to be enjoying the, er, "sympathy" of somebody in the BOF. According to recent news reports, the DOF has been badmouthing the tobacco industry.

For instance, the DOF released some figures on excise tax collection from the industry, showing only P55 billion in 2010, which was much lower than the target.

As if on cue, the Swiss surfaced to cite the same figures, or estimates. Okay, pasuwerte!

Anyway, a technical official of the BIR revealed in a recent congressional hearing that the bureau's tobacco excise tax collection for 2010 actually hit P52 billion.

Question: Why was the DOF underestimating the tobacco excise tax collection? Another question: Was it an intentional error?

Lately, Siqua was said to have made headway with the Aquino [Part II] administration in pushing for its modified first-year contract.

From what I gathered, Siqua wrecked its claim on the incredible tax leakage in the tobacco industry of more than P120 billion in seven years.

Never mind that a study conducted by the De La Salle University concluded that, if there were leakages in the tobacco excise tax, it would probably not reach P120 billion, or the incremental revenue claimed by Siqua to justify its P1.8 billion contract.

Frankly, now this is hardly my kind of deal!

But here is one thing: The entire tobacco industry is capable of producing about 100 billion cigarette sticks a year. Again, that is the capacity!

Thus, for the claimed tax leakages to hit P120 billion in seven years, or about P18 billion yearly, the entire industry would have to hide from the government production of hundreds of millions of packs of cigarettes a year.

I mean, really, how do you keep such an operation a deep dark secret known only to a few such as DOF officials and Swiss company agents?

###

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Bautista III

WHAT were happened to the shares of the publicly listed, and disputed, Philcomsat Holdings?

Well, a check with the Philippine Stock Exchange showed that a good portion of the company's outstanding shares remains inactive, and the trading of other little-listed shares (held by the public, of course) remains, as "suspended."

Take note that the Court of Appeals already lifted a "freeze order" on the company's bank accounts.

The info from the PSE on the Philcomsat Holdings status should be interesting for stock market watchers.

Also, of the groups disputing ownership of the P1 billion company announced last year that the corporation would raise additional funds by selling shares to the public.

What I tried while trading of the listed shares is suspended? From while hundreds of millions worth of shares are yet not listed?

Although Philcomsat Holdings has a capitalization of P1 billion, only P90 million worth of shares are listed on the PSE, their trading suspended at that.

The remaining P940 million worth of shares, which incidentally were subscribed by Philippine Lapanzi (PAL) and Philcomsat Holding (P800 million), are still not listed.

In other words, even if trading of shares had not been suspended, these shares could still not be traded on the PSE floor. In effect, where only a small portion of the outstanding shares is listed, there is hardly any liquidity to the issue. How fair is this to the public holding Philcomsat shares?

Remember that Philcomsat Holdings was originally known as Liberty Mines, which had been listed for long ages. That meant that it still had small stockholders when the Philcomsat group acquired it to be transformed into a holding company.

The acquisitioned Philippine Communications Satellite (Philcomsat) owns some 40 percent of the listed Philcomsat Holdings.

As a holding company starting in 2000, Philcomsat Holdings made money mainly by leasing out its condo units (Pacific Star Building on G.I. Pepe Ave.) and by pleading its cash in the Asset-only form.

But the company got entangled in an ownership dispute between the groups of Edinda Hanote-Bildner and Enrique Lorete, who used to be the members of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

Apparently, due to the dispute, Philcomsat Holding failed to submit periodic reports to the PSE.

Trading of its shares was thus suspended about three years ago.

Flight schools urged to move out of NCR

By Paolo G. Montecillo

BUDGET CARRIER Cebu Pacific is pushing for the transfer of flight schools to provincial airports to free up Manila's packed airports and runways.

In a statement, the Cabangcayan's airline said it would support the suggestion of Ramon Gutierrez, Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) director general, to relocate the airport's "general aviation" direction section at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).

Except for airports in Manila, Cebu and Clark Freeport, all airports in the country are operated by the CAAP.

"International airports such as Iloilo can do not have pilot schools or general aviation operating out of their country's premiere gateways. We are CAAP's efforts to lessen air traffic in Manila as a very positive move that can only gain positive results for all passengers," Cebu Pacific vice-president for flight operations Capt. Leonardo Gil is quoted in a statement.

Gutierrez said flight delays at Naia could last for well over an hour because of runway and airspace traffic.

Sitting in the middle of Metro Manila and surrounded by residential and commercial areas, Naia can longer has any space to expand its runways.

And unlike the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) in Clark that has parallel runways, Naia's runways are perpendicular to each other, which means planes cannot take off and land at the same time.

In 2010 alone, Cebu and Cebu Pacific experienced almost 6,000 minor and major delayed flights caused by air traffic in Manila. The accumulated delay caused by air traffic had put non-operationally 50,000 minutes or 833 hours.

Despite this, the company said it was still able to have 86 percent of its flights leaving and arriving on time in 2010. "This was largely because of the team effort we at Cebu Pacific have agreed to bring our passengers to their destination on time," Cebu Pacific said.

CAAP's Gutierrez earlier said allowing provincial airports in home areas can schools would decongest Manila's airports and also augment provincial airports' revenues.

WESM to free up power

from page B1

potential.

"I think the reason is that Visayas wasn't really experiencing brownouts the same way as Mindanao. The whole of Mindanao [experiences outages]. In the Visayas, you had plants like Panay experiencing more brownouts [than] in Cebu, and less [compared to] Leyte. So everybody wasn't hit on equal portion," Montecillo said.

He added companies that had not been experiencing brownouts in the Visayas were not to leave of WESM because saying that the open market would only drive up power prices.

"In Mindanao, everybody's suffering from the brownouts. I think [the government will] get more cooperation from the electric cooperatives [on the island]," Montecillo said.

The APC official also noted that while prices of electricity to be sourced from WESM in Mindanao could be higher compared to current power rates, such prices would still be relatively lower than those charged to power consumers in Luzon and Visayas.

Abotiz explained that power consumers in Mindanao were used to extremely low power rates due to the lower generation charges of state-run National Power Corp. But such rates, he said, did not reflect actual costs of generating electricity.

Over the long run however, power firms will be forced to reflect the true costs of power to ensure sustainability of their businesses, Abotiz said.

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China Bank sees 22% rise in net profit

By Doris C. Dumlao

CHINA BANKING Corp. grew its net profit last year by 22 percent to a record P5 billion on continued lending growth and improved trading gains.

Fee-based businesses such as bancassurance, or the selling of insurance products through bank branches, as well as private banking/wealth management, cash management and remittances, also contributed to the 2010 earnings growth, the bank disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange last Friday.

The 2010 results of China Bank, which is majority owned by the family of tycoon Henry Sy, translated to a return on equity of 15.69 percent, up from 15.36 percent the previous year while return on assets likewise rose to 2.31 percent from 1.9 percent.

The Sy family also owns Banco de Oro Unibank.

According to China Bank president Peter Dee, 2010 was a year of dynamic growth for the bank.

"We continued to pursue our aggressive expansion program ... and even exceeded our internal targets of P54 billion," Dee said.

The bank's total resources amounted to P127.69 billion, boosted by net interest income which had improved by 4.8 percent to P4.63 billion as interest expense decreased by 11.5 percent due to lower borrowing rates.

Fee-based income increased by 34 percent to P4.48 billion.

Trading gains surged by 47.4 percent to P1.75 billion as the low-interest rate environment boosted the banking system's treasury operations.

Even as its branch expansion program was in full swing, the bank prudently kept operating expense growth to 3.48 percent.

"China Bank continues to be one of the most cost efficient banks in the industry, with a cost efficiency ratio of 53.5 percent from 56.3 percent," the bank said.

The ratio means that the bank spends around P0.53 to earn every P1.

Total assets grew by 16 percent to P127.47 billion. Gross loan portfolio from customers expanded by 10.6 percent to P113.7 billion due to higher corporate borrowings.

This brought the ratio of net loans to total assets to 40.5 percent in 2010 from 40.4 percent in 2009, suggesting ample liquidity to further grow its loan book.

With adequate provisions for probable losses already in the books, China Bank reduced its loan loss provisions by 17.4 percent to P499 million.

Still, the bank pointed out that its loan loss coverage ratio remained among the highest in the industry at 128.7 percent.

Capital funds ended the year at P97.05 billion, up by P5.09 billion.

This translated to a capital adequacy ratio of 16.26 percent against the local central bank's minimum requirement of 10 percent.

To date, the bank has 360 branches and 440 automated teller machines nationwide.

Legislation in aid of smugglers

By Erineza M. Ordoñez

JUST 88 legislators may help improve governance, it may also be used to aid corruption.

A subtle way of accomplishing this is to delay the passage of good legislation through delaying tactics.

COMMENTARY

He believes this is what is happening to the Anti-Smuggling Bill being discussed in Congress.

Flashback

The process of formulating an anti-smuggling bill started during the 13th Congress of 2003-2004.

At that time, the Alyansa ng Agribusiness (AA), Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) and Fair Trade Alliance (FTA) worked closely together to help craft the Anti-Smuggling bill sponsored by Rep. Edel Salcedo.

After three years of intense lobbying and hard work, the Anti-Smuggling bill was passed by the House of Representatives.

However, the Senate failed to pass that bill because of "lack of time."

This was despite the fact that the proposed law could significantly reduce the more than P130 billion in annual government revenue loss through smuggling.

It could also prevent massive loss of livelihood, particularly in the agricultural sector, due to this form of economic sabotage.

The rumor then was that certain political legislators, backed by smuggling syndicates, had employed delaying tactics to kill this bill.

Start from scratch

At the beginning of the 14th Congress, the anti-smuggling effort had to start from scratch given the new crop of legislators. Congressmen then used delaying tactics and did not pass the Anti-Smuggling bill.

Most two-Congressmen, sponsoring six years, anti-smuggling advocates wondered if the bill would suffer the same fate in the hands of the current Congress.

It was therefore with a sigh of relief and great joy that we heard Rep. Reynaldo Munoz, vice chair of the Congressional Ways and Means Committee, announce his target of passing the Anti-Smuggling bill by May 2011.

Alarming news

This is far better than waiting for the "last minute" in the last year of Congress, as what had happened in the past. The result was that the bill was sabotaged by legislators' delaying tactics.

Last July 9, during no congressional hearing on the Anti-Smuggling bill, a decision was announced to merge the Anti-Smuggling bill with a proposed Customs and Tariff Modernization Act (CTMA).

The CTMA seeks essentially to repeal the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines.

To do this, it will affect provisions of the following laws: Anti-Dumping Act, Countervailing Duty Act, Custom Bonded Act, Safeguards Measures Act, Transaction Value Act, Valuation Law, and the Charters of the Peza, Subic Bay and other freeports and special economic zones.

In addition, Made Ann Serrano, FPI International Trade committee chair and AA international relations adviser, pointed out that the proposed CTMA provisions would also have to deal with the delegated tariff setting powers of the President—Sec. 1708 and 1709 of HB No. 3225; the national trade negotiation strategy and framework and the pending FTRI bill; the rightful organization setup of the Tariff Commission (Tariff or ITCFC); and the pending Antitrust or Competition Policy bills.

If Congress could not pass the relatively straightforward Anti-Smuggling bill in six years, it is obvious that the merging of this bill with the very complex CTMA will delay the Anti-Smuggling bill's passage.

During the 9th to 16th Congressional hearing, the AA representative explicitly said this appeared to be a delaying tactic, and opposed the proposed merging of the two bills.

Opposing the merger

During the same hearing, it was announced that Rep. Montalla, who had supported a May 2011 passage of the Anti-Smuggling bill, was himself behind the merging of the two bills.

In a phone call last Feb. 22, Montalla strongly denied this.

It is said here Montalla's name was used to rule during the hearing.

We believe all anti-smuggling advocates should now support Montalla in his desire to keep the Anti-Smuggling bill separate from the CTMA.

We should strongly oppose the proposed merged legislation which, seemingly or unwittingly is a delaying tactic and will effectively support smugglers.

(The author is chair of Agri-Watch, former secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects, and former undersecretary for Agriculture, and Trade and Industry. For inquiries and suggestions, e-mail agriwatch.phil@yahoo.com or telefax 8922732.)

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Quezon gov't reconsiders sale of coal power plant

APC adopts wait-and-see stance on talks

By Amy R. Remo

THE LOCAL government of Hopkins in Quezon is again considering the sale of the 500-megawatt coal-fired power plant in the province undertaken in March, despite ongoing negotiations with the national government.

Jose Miguel Alcaide, SVP for mining and marketing at the Alcaide Power Corp. (APC), confirmed that the local government was hoping to conduct bidding for the power plant on March 9, after a planned auction slated earlier this month had been postponed.

"It was first scheduled Feb. 9, and it was postponed because the national and local governments were trying to resolve the issue. But so far, there has been no agreement," Alcaide said.

APC, holder of the independent power producer administrator (IPPA) contract to manage the output of the Hopkins coal facility, was last recently awaiting developments on the issue, Alcaide added.

Another industry source privy to the matter confirmed that the local government of Hopkins was trying to auction off the coal facility last month.

Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras, however, insisted that there would be no bidding because the local and national governments were still trying to hammer out an agreement.

"Auction will not happen as discussions are ongoing," Almendras stressed.

In January this year, the Office of the Municipal Treasurer of Pagbilao had scheduled to auction off the coal power plant, which was subjected to a warrant of levy over the nonpayment of P6 billion worth of real property taxes by Team Energy Corp., owner and operator of the Pagbilao facility.

Team Energy, a venture between Japan's Marubeni and Tokyo Electric and Power Co., was supposed to have only a year from the date of sale to redeem the Pagbilao plant, pursuant to Section 175 of the Local Government Code.

Then President Aquino was able to stop the planned auction on Jan. 20 after he and Quezon Governor David Suarez agreed to come up with a compromise to settle the real estate tax liabilities amounting to P6 billion.

Almendras earlier said that, in lieu of getting P6 billion worth of taxes as owed by Team Energy to the province of Quezon, the local government of Pagbilao would instead get P6 billion worth of government projects on the condition that the tax liabilities would be extinguished.

APC earlier clarified in a regulatory disclosure that under the build-operate-transfer (BOT) contract with the government, state-run National Power Corp. should have assumed all obligations to pay the real property taxes on the Pagbilao facility.

While it was up to the local and national governments to resolve this issue, Alcaide noted that whatever the decision, its impact would affect all companies that had built power plants under a BOT scheme with the government.

On the part of APC, Alcaide said the company's IPPA contract actually had provisions that would take care of situations like this, although these provisions "don't come into effect until Team's Energy actually calls on the government guarantee."

"That may not happen until at least a year. So I can't have to [just wait. It will affect us, but I can't tell you what [that effect] is until it happens," Alcaide added.

Angat dam needs vital repairs, rehabilitation, high court told

TO AVERT a possible scarcity of potable water in Metro Manila, state-run Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. has sought the Supreme Court's approval to allow repairs and rehabilitation work at the Angat Dam in Bulacan.

According to the latest status report on the implementation of the Writ of Kalikasan issued by the high court in April, Pedro already filed the urgent manifestation and motion in September last year, but has yet to receive a favorable decision from the Supreme Court.

The government agency wanted to repair and rehabilitate the Angat Dam's low level outlet and the so-called By-Pass No. 1, both are component components, agency officials said.

According to the Petra report, the government-owned National Power Corp., as the majority operator of the dam, and the Metropolitan Waterworks Sewerage System, through concessionaire Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc., are expected to conduct the rehabilitation work.

A ranking government official confirmed that Napocor and MWSS had already signed a memorandum of agreement concerning the repairs.

Also, another source said that the planned rehabilitation would cost only P15 million. This may be funded partly by the MWSS.

The sources also said that both Napocor and MWSS were currently drawing up plans for the rehabilitation, which may take about a month and a half to complete.

The actual work may take roughly six months to complete, a source added.

Last year, residents living in Metro Manila and nearby provinces experienced water supply shortages due to a prolonged drought that had significantly reduced water levels at the Angat Dam.

The water levels at that time fell to a historic low of 157 to 158 meters above sea level, prompting water concessionaires to either reduce water pressure in some areas and cut supply for a few hours in other areas.

Metro Manila, home to 12 million residents, assures over 90 percent of its water requirements from the Angat Dam. But experts believe that, if no new water source were to be found, Metro Manila could experience a water shortfall of 1,000 million liters a day by 2013. Amy R. Remo

Philex income up 124% on record metal prices

PHILEX MINING Corp., the country's largest mining company posted a 124-percent surge in its core net income to P4.15 billion in 2011 due to record high gold and copper prices during the period.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Philex also said that its reported net income therefore increased by 44 percent to P3.95 billion from the P1.83 billion seen in 2009.

According to Philex, both its core net income and reported net income for 2011 represented the second highest in the company's history.

The mining firm further explained that the favorable price levels combined with higher metal production resulting from record level of tonnage milled since 1996 enabled revenue to rise by 48 percent to P13.39 billion from the previous year's P9.06 billion. This was achieved despite ore grades being slightly lower this year, it added.

"The record results in profitability, Ebitda (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization), and revenues for the year are indeed gratifying," said Philex chair Manuel V. Pangilinan. "Despite a slow start in the first half, the company boosted its performance across the board in the second half, producing ... high numbers."

On the back of its strong performance, Philex is set to give out a cash dividend of 16 centavos per share worth about P787.6 million, the company said in a separate disclosure.

Record date for the dividend has been set for March 14 this year, while payment date was slated on April 5. Amy R. Remo

BUSINESS

Subic Freeport posted $1.34B in exports in '10

Korean shipbuilder accounts for bulk of total receipts

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT – Total exports posted by this freeport in 2010 hit $1.34 billion, contributed mostly by Korean shipbuilding giant, Kenjin Heavy Industries Corp. Philippines (HHIC-PHI).

According to the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, Kenjin was the freeport's biggest export earner accounting for $735.6 million. The company has four exported two oil tankers—the M/T Leyla K and its sister, M/T Inez K—which were delivered to Antwerp and Mersh, respectively, to Turkish-owned Kaptanoglu Shipping Line.

Hanjin officials said the two vessels were the first and biggest crude oil tankers ever built in the country as per record. The tankers each topped the scales at 319,000 deadweight tons and measured 341.37 meters long, 44 meters wide, and 23.35 meters deep.

In February last year, Hanjin also completed the AFS Bahrain, a 209.8-meter long container ship with a capacity of 4,500 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs). This vessel was commissioned by the Singapore-based American President Lines (APL).

Subic's total exports last year surpassed by 24.6 percent or $265.6 million the $1.08 billion registered in 2009.

In a statement, SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza said the freeport also turned out the biggest amount of duties and taxes in a single year—P6.68 billion—in 2010.

He said the freeport also posted record high temperature so far at $3.443 billion.

Arreza said the upon entering the freeport hubs economy and the growing competitiveness of the freeport as a manufacturing and trading center.

Following Hanjin among the top exporters were Japanese electronics producer Sanyo Denki Phils. Inc., which registered $1.03.2 million in exports; Taiwanese computer-maker Wistron Infocomm Phils. $791.3 million; Japanese ATM-machine manufacturer Hitachi Terminals Media Ironics Phils. Corp., $527.5 million; and Taiwanese metal manufacturer Tong Ling (Phils.) Metal Industry, $513.1 million.

Completing the top 10 list are Johnson Electric (Phils.) Corp., $511 million; Topy Corp., $27.7 million; Nissin Philippines Inc., $22.2 million; Canon Subic Corp., $10.8 million, and Philtec Subic Philippines Corp., $10 million.

At least four of the top 10 exporters were also in the list of the freeport's biggest investors in Subic.

Arreza said seven projects wholly-owned by Filipinos made it to the 30 biggest investment projects in 2010.

These were Subic Bay Town Center Inc., which landed at the third spot with its investment commitment of $30.42 million; Jardaniaco-Filipino joint venture Super International Corp., $13 million; hotels of Yilbia Resorts, $16.27 million; Subic Bay Hotels & Lifestyle Retails Concept Inc., $5.96 million; Pawnee Holdings Corp., $5.35 million; Holy Land Subic Foundation Inc., $5.33 million; Libra Management & Resources Corp., $5.32 million; and Sun Bermuda Shores Beach Resort Corp., $2.31 million.

Arreza said these foreign direct investments (FDIs) made it to Subic's top 10 investments in 2010. InCastle Philippines, a Korean firm that ranked first in the list with its pledge of $1 billion for a resort project; Summa-bilin Investments Ltd., a Chinese company with $75 million for aluminum energy projects, and Global Structure Composites, a German-British partnership that pledged $13 million.

He said Filipino firms used to dominate investments in the freeport when it started in 1993.

"That changed in 2006, when (that 20) pledged an initial $1 billion investment in its shipyard project here," he said. – Robert Garsuga, Inquirer Central Luzon

PSEi seen testing new high

Vista Land gets ₱500-M credit line

VISTA LAND Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc. has obtained a P500-million credit line from Security Bank Corp.

The three-year credit will be used to finance the property developer's aggressive expansion projects in key cities and investments for its housing segment, and to form into mid- rise building projects.

"We expect to continue to build a mutually beneficial relationship with Security Bank through this and other commercial transactions in the future," Vista Land chief executive officer Reuben Vincent Theresio Santos said in a statement.

Vista Land spent more than P10 billion for capital expenditures in 2010 and is expected to increase its capex program this year.

To meet the robust growth in demand in the property market, Vista Land is launching seven mid-rise buildings within the first quarter in key cities such as New Manila, Cubao, Fairview, Taguig, Pasig, Binan and Davao. The estimated total project value of mid-rise buildings slated for launch this year is expected to exceed P7 billion.

Vista Land said it would use some of its fund for its expansion projects. As of September last year, the company had more than 3,000 hectares of new land.

The overseas Filipino market accounts for about 60 percent of the company's sales. It expects demand from this market segment to remain strong in line with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' forecast that remittances coursed through banks would rise by 8 percent this year.

Vista Land is the holding company of five business units: Brittany, Crown Asia, Camella Homes, Communities Philippines and its condominium development subsidiary, Vista Residences Inc.

Doris C. Dumlao

RCBC unit sees main index hitting 4,518 in late '11

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE stock market will likely recover from the recent downturn, allowing the main index rise a new high of 4,518 later this year on the back of strong macroeconomic and corporate fundamentals, RCBC Securities said.

In a recent research report, the stock brokerage unit of Rizalbased rural Commercial Banking Corp. said the recent pullback had brought down many stocks to attractive valuation levels relative to prospective earnings.

"Investor weak-to-medium case scenario of a 10 percent market [PE (earnings per share) growth in 2010 and 21 percent in 2011," the brokerage said.

By action, RCBC Securities is **cent upbeat on the banking property** and leading firm assigned it a buy rating for banks and financial institutions and media. It gave a "hold" recommendation on the power sector and "neutral" on mining.

RCBC Securities projected that stock prices could rise by 19 percent this year, equivalent to a 2011 price-to-earnings (PE) ratio of 14.2x. With the worst scenario, it estimated that the local market's PE ratio had fallen to 12.3x or among the lowest in the region.

A PE ratio of 12.2x means investors are paying 12.3 times the amount of money the company is making in a given period.

RCBC Securities noted that the local equities market had risen by a cumulative 106 percent from 2008 to 2010. The PSEi posted at 4,297.20 on Dec. 4 last year, but has since seen below the major psychological support of 4,000 and the technical support of 3,800, dragged down by heavy net foreign selling.

RCBC Securities, however, said its outlook remained positive.

"The fundamental picture supports the market's continued uptrend. The positive macroeconomic environment is conducive to earnings growth," it said.

RCBC Securities expects the economy to grow by 5.1 percent this year and 6 percent next year, with inflation this year seen falling within the ranges noted by Philippines' 5.5 percent target range.

"Therefore, a modest increase [in BSP's overnight borrowing rate] is likely—50 to 100 basis points—but it is not enough to deter consumption and investment spending," it said.

Economic growth is still seen driven by consumption but investment spending is expected to improve given the interest in public private partnership (PPP) in infrastructure-building, power, mining and real estate sectors.

Overseas Filipino remittances, which have grown at a compounded annual rate of 13.3 per cent from 2005 to 2010, are still seen supporting consumption spending.

RCBC Securities also sees the peso strengthening further against the US dollar to 42 by the end of the year and further to 40 by the end of 2012 due to strong revenue performance and rising external surpluses.

It said the risks to the equities markets were mostly external in nature, with foreign investors reacting to unfavorable markets given the perceived recovery of the US economy.

PDS eyes cross-border securities trading

THE PHILIPPINE Dealing System (PDS) Group is in talks with regulators for the introduction of hedging products and cross-border trading of government securities in a bid to help the local financial market information more comprehensive globally.

In a recent briefing, PDS Group president Vicente Castillo said that as a provider of financial market infrastructure, the group would like to add new asset classes and broaden the market for the trading of Philippine debt paper.

"The stock market is just the door. We now have to open windows as the market can breathe," Castillo said, adding that the Philippines might be ready to develop an interest swap market, FRA (forward rate agreement) market and a nondeliverable forwards (NDF) market.

Interest rate swaps, which are very popular in other markets, allows one party to exchange a stream of interest payments for another party's stream of cash flows. They can also be used by speculators to replicate unfunded bond exposures to profit from changes in interest rates.

An FRA is similar to a futures contract but it is not traded on any exchange. It is an agreement between two parties on the value or level of a financial instrument or a future date. It is not dealt at maturity in cash, representing the profit or loss resulting from the difference in the agreed rate (FRA rate) and the settlement rate at maturity.

Under an NDF contract, parties agree to buy and sell foreign exchange at a specific rate at a future date. The difference between the agreed foreign exchange rate and spot rate upon settlement is paid.

PDS, through its subsidiaries, hosts a fixed income and foreign exchange market. It also provides settlement and depository services for the local currency government securities transaction market.

"We have to start looking at developing derivatives products. A move spark on the currency does not mean our investors should exit [for the currency market. Maybe they could just swap their risks," Castillo said, adding that the group wanted to make sure the prices from products were well organized and coverage would be properly monitored.

PDS is also in talks with regulators so that peso-denominated debt paper, currently traded through local fixed income exchange Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEx), could be made available for cross-border trading starting this year through the Singapore Exchange Ltd. (SGX).

The plans is to begin cross-border trading with the most liquid and actively traded benchmark three-, five-, seven- and 10-year treasury bonds.

"There is demand for local currency securities so we are now in discussion with the local players, our foreign partners and foreign sponsors that can assist us in integrating our domestic debt into the Singaporean board," Castillo said.

The initial plan is to make available to the dozen (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries Philippine fixed income treasury bonds. We will probably limit it to benchmark treasury bonds," he said.

SGX is among the key shareholders of PDS, which also include the bankers associations of the Philippines, Philippine Stock Exchange Inc., Trans-Continental Depository Services (Philippines) Inc., Sandiligan Corp., Philippine Associates Life and Financial Insurance Co., Southeastern Bank of the Philippines, the Social Security System, Financial Executive Institute of the Philippines, and the Investment Houses Association of the Philippines.

The cross-listing of government debt paper between and among Asean countries does not require further registration.

"So we're starting first with government debt issued via memorandum agreements between and among the Asean (Association of Southeast Asian) nations," Castillo said.

One of the key preconditions for the "regionalization" domestic debt, he said, was to have sufficient liquidity in the domestic debt market.

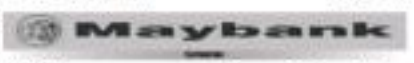
"I feel that our major benchmarks are now ready to be integrated and we welcome the opportunity of working with our major shareholder, SGX. For debt issues there over-the-counter, 90 foreign-currency bonds are registered within the region," Castillo said.

Because bilateral or government-to-government transactions are involved in such instances, Castillo said the settlement could be delayed here and that it's possible for initial trading to commence within the year.

SGX, Asia Pacific's first "demutualized" integrated stocks and derivatives exchange, was established in 1999 following the merger of the Stock Exchange of Singapore and the Singapore International Monetary Exchange. Its shares are listed on its own bourse.

Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE



SMC eyes deals with Indon coal mining firms

Key to planned power generation business overseas

By Aris R. Reloz

SAN MIGUEL Corp. is hoping to conclude soon its negotiations with Indonesian companies for the joint development of coal mines in that country, a move that will pave the way for the conglomerate's power generation business overseas.

San Miguel president Ramon S. Ang said talks with Indonesian coal firms were ongoing but he was targeting to wrap up negotiations within the next two months.

Ang said the negotiations took longer than expected due to the flooding in several parts of Australia last month which affected global coal supply and prices.

Australia is one of the world's largest coal producers and exporters, and the flooding in its coal mines had adversely affected the global supply of this resource.

As world coal prices rose, Indonesian coal firms started seeking higher prices for their mines, according to Ang. He added that San Miguel was seeking for the coal price and supply of mines in Australia before they would finalize the agreements with those companies.

Ang said San Miguel was looking at either acquisitions of coal mines or joint venture arrangements.

He said in an earlier interview that the coal mine eyed by the conglomerate were ones to contain as much as 100 million tons of resources per area.

As of last year, San Miguel was looking at five prospective areas.

Locally, San Miguel has already acquired three coal mines in South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat, which have resources capable of generating an initial 1,200 megawatts (MW). These were previously owned by Dagmena agro-Minerals Inc., Benguet Energy Resources Inc. and Sultan Energy Mining and Development Corp.

Ang said the company was planning to put up a 300-MW mine-mouth coal power plant in Concepcion, Tarlac following the acquisition of Dagmena's coal mine. A 300-MW coal facility would need about 750,000 tons of coal a year.

According to Ang, the company would begin this year the construction of some of its proposed coal-fired facilities in Mindanao—particularly for the Dagmena coal area—starting off with the study of the logistics infrastructure requirements of these coal facilities.

"Due diligence, drilling and master[illegible] are all ongoing. We're finishing the planned work program, after which we plan to award the project to a contractor within the year. We will start off with the Dagmena coal area," he said.

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UNION INDEX FUND	Net Income Class (for UIT)	Corporate Class (for Trustee)
	1 YEAR	1 YEAR
UNION INDEX FUND	1.11%	1.11%
BPI-Peakpro Fund	[illegible]	[illegible]
BPI-Peakpro Peso Fund	1.46%	1.46%
BPI-Peakpro Fund	[illegible]	[illegible]
BPI-Peakpro Dollar Fund	1.49%	1.49%

UNION TARGET FUND	Net Income Class (for UIT)	Corporate Class (for Trustee)
	1 YEAR	1 YEAR
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

PLDT raising capex for 2011 to ₱30B

By Paolo G. Montecillo

LISTED PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. is ramping up spending in 2011 to ensure that its network is ready for the exponential growth in mobile broadband services across the next few years.

At a minimum, the company said its capital expenditure this year would be at least ₱30 billion, a 3-percent increase from ₱29.1 billion last year.

"Network superiority has been a key competitive advantage for us. Our fixed and mobile networks are the country's most extensive, reliable networks. We can't stop building on that strength," PLDT president and CEO Napoleon L. Nazareno said.

He said the growing popularity of smart phones and tablet computers—which were heavily reliant on mobile telecommunications networks to deliver Internet services—made it clear that the company's network would have to keep up with consumer habits.

According to Nazareno, the shift to smart phones is a global trend.

At last month's Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, smart phones, tablets and mobile data service took center stage. This is happening because handset makers' smart phones are becoming more affordable and mobile phone networks more powerful and data capable," he said.

Filipino mobile phone users will shift to Internet-capable smart phones in large numbers over the next two to three years, Nazareno said. He said PLDT would continue the lead in promoting this transition.

He said PLDT's mobile subsidiary, Smart Communications Inc., is making available an array of high-quality, affordable smart phones and tablets led by its "net phone," and low-cost Internet service packages in the next few months.

The net phone will be introduced by Smart into the Philippine market soon.

Anticipating the rise of mobile data traffic, Nazareno said Smart is both expanding and upgrading its broadband and cellular networks.

Smart currently provides Internet access to more than 8.2 million subscribers all over the country, according to Rolando G. Peña, who heads the PLDT Group's network expansion program.

"This is the largest mobile Internet subscriber base being served by a Philippine telco. With the surge in popularity of smart phones and tablets, we expect that this subscriber base to grow further in the coming years," he said.

The PLDT group, which has more than 44 million subscribers, is expected to have its its profit target for 2011. The company is scheduled to announce its financial performance results for last year on Tuesday.

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Crisis in Mideast, N. Africa spooks PH markets

From page B1

affect the credit rating of related issuers like what happened in 2009 when the fiscal problems of Dubai spooked global markets. "There might be some effect on emerging markets as there might be some sovereign impact. It may provide some reason for growth not to take off," he said.

Fundamentally prepared

But National Treasurer Roberto Tan said the Philippines had enough buffer against these geopolitical risks, especially with the country's foreign reserves at a record high and exceeding the foreign debt stock. "Fundamentally, we are prepared for serious market deterioration," he said.

For one thing, he noted the existing regional risk facility under the Chiang Mai Initiative that allows access to liquidity. The post-Asian crisis Chiang Mai Initiative among the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus Japan, China and South Korea created a network of bilateral swap arrangements to address short-term liquidity difficulties in the region and to supplement the existing international financial arrangements.

With ample global liquidity and deep access to liquidity, Tan said he would not expect the current turmoil to create a dent on the government's funding program this year.

CLSA Asia-Pacific head of research for the Philippines Al Bacilio said that unless the turmoil spread to key oil and OFW markets—particularly Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Kuwait—the Philippines should not be hurt. "We added that the current stock market weakness should then be seen as an opportunity to accumulate good equities and that the local stock index should find a strong support at 3,800.

The Middle East as a whole accounted for 15.7% percent of total remittances and was behind the contribution of Europe at 36.9% percent and the Americas at 33.2% percent, by mind that among the Middle East countries, the top three contributors to OFW remittances were: Saudi Arabia at 31.24 billion or 8.22 percent of total remittances; UAE at $775 million or 4.12 percent, and Qatar at $247 million or 1.3 percent.

The United States was still the biggest source of OFW dollars at $7.46 billion or 42 percent of total remittances, Dy said.

"Though it is hard to predict an exact end game scenario to the ongoing political tensions in the Middle East and Africa, I personally believe that it will not spread to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar given total body length income levels in these countries," Dy said in a Feb. 24 commentary titled "Much Ado About Nothing?"

Even if the Philippines have sending workers in Egypt, Bahrain, Libya, Tunisia and Yemen, Dy said it should not massively affect OFW inflows. He noted that remittances from these countries only accounted for 0.92 percent of 2010 total remittances of $18.76 billion. In terms of deployed workers, there were only 65,681 in these areas which accounted for 0.87 percent of total OFWs.

In terms of exports and imports, these countries also accounted for less than 1 per cent of Philippines foreign trade, he said.

"Of course, since most of these countries are in the Middle East, the ongoing tensions are translating to higher oil prices. However, both Libya and Yemen only account for 2.3 percent of total daily supply of 86.53 million barrels. Further, the Philippines does not source any of its oil requirement from these countries," Dy said.

The top two export markets of the Philippines in the Middle East are Saudi Arabia and UAE. "We estimate that these two countries account for 12 percent of total exports and these are primarily in oil," Dy said.

On exports, Dy said the top three export markets of the Philippines in the Middle East were Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain. Collectively collectively accounting for 2.41 percent of total exports.

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The Mind Museum honors new donors

The Mind Museum Inc. board of pioneering visionaries honored by trustees of premiere programmatic Southern Arts Foundation Inc. (SAFI) include (second from left) Dr. Edwin Pascasio (Dean of Ateneo de Manila Medical School, University Physicians Medical Center), Sebastian G. Belmonte (Chess Learning Systems, Inc.), Marian A. Albert (San Life Financial), John Secretario (Co-Chairman/Owner Philippines, Inc.), and SAFI trustees Nicole R. Ayala (Trinity Advisory, standing) from left Johannes Brighton (Pacific Paint (Buyers) Philippines, Inc.), Dominador R. Tiu (Adart Lighting and Technology Corporation), Ramon Lopez (Paperazzi Philippines), Mike Katigbak (Design Manila, Inc.), SAFI trustee Charlie U. Rubio, Felix B. Alvo (CATS Motor, Inc.), SAFI vice-chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala, co-chair of The Mind Museum Maria Isabel Garcia, Joe Wellington (Trinity Corporation), SAFI trustee Antonino T. Aquino, Felino Bernardo (American Standard Philippines, Ltd. Co.), Lawrence Chong (PAT Group Corp.), Inc. (chair The Mind Museum's managing director Manuel A. Ocampo, Jr.).

The Mind Museum honors its donors in a ceremony hosted by the Ayala Museum. Over 300 attendees joined the Chairman's Circle Donors and guests and given a walk through of the area that is to be the Philippines' first interactive science center.

Managing director Manuel Ma. A. said, "For the last nine years, we started working on the project in 2007. I am no longer referring to the site and doing that someday we will build the museum, we are actually building the museum. Now, we can do stories. We are now into the e-stories set and [illegible]."

The new museum donors and their sponsored exhibits are:

Sun Life Financial for the Math Pocket and the Science in the Park. This is 200 sqm area that shows how math comes to life in the world around us.

Adart Lighting and Technology Corporation takes care of the museum's lighting requirements and sponsors the Lighting Gallery. It showcases the different kinds of lighting for [illegible].

Pacific Paint (Buyers) Philippines sponsors the paint [illegible] in the museum and the Walker Light Sanctum exhibition in the Science Park.

Chess Learning Systems, Inc. donated for the launch of Life exhibit in the Life Gallery. The Human Life is a physically interactive exhibition that showcases the human body as a whole and its [illegible]. Interactive parts include [illegible] and [illegible].

The **Daniel S. Mercado Medical Center** in Tanauan, Batangas is the museum's partner for [illegible] and [illegible] exhibits that will deal with the [illegible]. The Mercado Medical Center and the University Physicians Medical Center [illegible] provides the [illegible] and [illegible] exhibits.

CATS Motors, Inc. sponsored the safety of cars in the Hands-On Field Works in the Technology Gallery and the [illegible] exhibit in the Science Park. The exhibit showcases different kinds of cars to convey how personal land transportation has evolved through time. The Mazda's [illegible] and Mitsubishi Lancer's Line of Vehicle.

Paperazzi Philippines takes charge of the Paper exhibit in the Hands-On Field of the Technology Gallery. The exhibit highlights the impact of paper in our lives and the [illegible] of paper [illegible].

American Standard Philippines, Ltd. Co. provides the restroom installation fixtures and equipment and sponsors the Toilet exhibit in the Hands-On Field of the Technology Gallery. The exhibit [illegible] the [illegible] of toilets [illegible].

ABC Home Depot, Inc. sponsors the Bridges exhibit in the Hands-On Field of the Technology Gallery. The exhibit highlights the importance of bridges and [illegible] in our lives.

The exhibit is [illegible] among children but also to adults of learning various engineering. **The Themebuilders Group, Inc.** sponsors the Play Houses in [illegible] and in [illegible]. **Design Manila, Inc.** gives [illegible] [illegible] and **Intayo! Corporation** provides [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] including the construction of the [illegible] of the Mind Museum.

The Mind Museum is set to open its doors to the [illegible] at this year. Meanwhile, more exhibit areas in the [illegible] and the Science Park of the Mind Museum are [illegible]. For more information, log on to www.themindmuseum.org.

BUSINESS

BSP lawyers score against Legacy anew

By Dixie L. Lacsa

THE ALLEGED perpetrators of the P14-billion Legacy scam found themselves in deep trouble after government prosecutors filed additional charges against them for the defunct group's alleged activities in Cebu.

State prosecutors of Cannar City, Cebu, found probable cause to charge Legacy officials—led by its owner Celso delos Angeles Jr.—with syndicated estafa committed by Rural Bank of Carmen, the group's unit in the province.

The alleged fraudulent activities succeeded in depriving the bank's clients of as much as P456 million through schemes that were illegal or disallowed by regulators.

Charged by the government were: Delos Angeles, Alexis Pricrella, Nanneman Puentes-Gomez, Rey Hilario, Virgilio Odejar, Reinaldo Alio, Christine Cruz-Limpin, Mike Benzonan, Fernando Dalmero Jr., Cecil Invencion and Reynaldo Mazo.

"Of these 11 officers, six are already fugitives from justice, having evaded arrests in connection with warrants issued by other courts where other syndicated estafa cases are pending against them," said BSP external counsel Elmer Galvez, of the Villaraza Cruz Marcelo & Angeles law office.

He named the six as Pricrella, Odejar, Buenaventura Alio, Limpin, Cruz-Limpin and Balisacan.

Government prosecutors said that from March 2006 to December 2008, the accused conspired to lure depositors and investors to place their funds in so-called "double your money" schemes of Legacy-controlled Rural Bank of Carmen.

Their investment vehicles included time and six-year behest certificates of time deposit with the "false promise" that the interest funds would earn 20 percent per year, maturing in five or six years.

"On the strength of the said false and fraudulent representations, the accused succeeded in inducing depositors or investors of the Rural Bank of Carmen to give and deliver the cumulative amount of P405 million, knowing fully well they were not authorized to do so by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas," the prosecutors said.

They added that the Legacy group officials then "willfully, unlawfully and feloniously" misappropriated and transferred the deposit of funds for their personal use and benefit.

They did this through fictitious loan schemes such as investments loan and microcycle loan programs, which were, in effect, means to funnel the funds out of the banks through loans secured by over-valued collateral.

Eleven officers, led by Delos Angeles, charged

On road to cleaner fuel, Aboitiz Power shows the way

By Amy R. Remo

SOCIAL NETWORKING sites like Facebook and Twitter have revolutionized the way people interact, conduct their businesses and influence others.

There also have sprung all traditional methods of entertainment and marketing, as it turned the Internet into a massive marketplace for almost everything.

In the Philippines, more than 22 million Filipinos are hooked on Facebook, and the number continues to grow by the day.

Seeing the power and capability of Facebook to reach out to massive audiences, a major player in the local power generation industry has decided to use the site to educate the public on environment-minded fuels and energy conservation.

Aboitiz Power Corp. recently launched the first Filipino-made application that teaches its users how to reduce carbon footprints.

APC president Erramon I. Aboitiz explains that this Facebook app dubbed "Mini Space" was more than just an online game. The app, he says, is an innovative, powerful, yet fun tool to educate Filipinos and the rest of the online community how to preserve the environment and conserve electricity.

While many people talk about the importance of saving the environment, few really take on the proactive role in addressing the issue, he says.

Yet many of them, in fact, know that switching from disposable plastic bottles to reusable ones can create a big overall impact in preserving the resources of our planet.

Through social games, APC directly addresses the "greater public about the ways by which they could do their share in contributing to the preservation of the Earth's resources."

Social games were found to have a significant draw for social networking site users. Globally, 56 million Facebook users play daily and 200 million play monthly. Up to 265 million Facebook gamers spend 230 minutes playing games. About 30 percent of these game players even pay cash for in-game benefits, APC reveals.

In the Philippines, 90 percent of social networking are users are gaming as the reason they log on.

In Mini Space, the game players' mission is to take care of their own little planet. They can do this by keeping their carbon footprint levels low, while keeping their "happiness level" up.

Every choice made affects their environments, and the game always gives feedback in the form of how much it has made you environmentally sound or not.

If they fail to make the decision and greener choice, the players' virtual planet will experience disasters like smog, which cause their owner to lose interactions, and heat wave, wherein they will have to perform extra tasks or pay a fee to bring their carbon footprint down.

The game players' progress is also measured through their happiness level, Carlomagno and Esperanzate points.

While games, meanwhile, provide power players are more active way by which their could learn more about the different sources of cleaner and renewable energy. Harvesting alternative energy is how this can prove in their planet—a significant feature of the game that encourages players to seek out and use alternative energy.

PH seen to account for a third of Hyundai sales

By Abigail L. Ho

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES—The Philippines, under Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. (Hari), is expected to account for about a third of Hyundai Motor Corp.'s sales in the Asia Pacific region this year.

In an interview here late Friday, Hyundai Asia Pacific general manager for marketing and product planning Jin Young Park said sales in the region was seen totaling 65,000 units this year, with the Philippines expected to account for at least 17,000 units.

Sales last year hit 20,172 units, making Hyundai the No. 5 automaker in the country in January alone, that registered a 30.4 percent rise in sales to 1,941 units.

Park said Hyundai believed in the Philippines so much that it exported half of the projected sales of the 2011 Accent compact sedan to come from the Philippines.

Hyundai is estimated the new Accent to sell 8,000 units this year, he said.

"The Philippines is very important area to us Asia Pacific. It has some advantages because it is a market similar to South Korea," he said. "The Philippines is one of the fastest economies in the region. Even as we're just starting production, we're already selling. Customers already feel it's the vehicle. We don't even get stored since then."

Hari senior manager for product planning Eduardo Sia Aguda III said sales were brisk for most of the Hyundai nameplates in the country, particularly the Tucson. Customers usually had to be placed on a waiting list before they get a vehicle.

Hari imports its vehicle supply from Hyundai's South Korea manufacturing facility. Some units also come from the India plant.

Park said Hyundai was now looking at putting up a manufacturing hub in Southeast Asia, but the company had yet to decide in which country the facility would be located.

"We're not sure which countries will be chosen. There are a lot of factors to be considered," he said.

Manufacturing activities would be done in the Southeast Asian region for the first time this year, with Hyundai's plan to produce its 0.8-liter kappa city car in Malaysia.

McCann Erickson Triumphs in AME AwardsJollitown emerges as sole Filipino winner

McCann Worldgroup celebrates McCann Erickson's International Grand Jo to Bonnie Maddalon for Jollitown at the recent Advertising and Marketing Effectiveness Awards. Among the hundreds of entries Jollitown was the only Filipino campaign recognized as one of the best in the integrated (Mixed Media) Marketing category. AME awards the most innovative and exceptional advertising and marketing work that has proven to be the most effective. Advertising campaigns from Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America and North America.

Jollitown first aired in 2009 as the first live-idled television show for kids that brought to life Jollitown and his friends not as mascots, but as playmates of kiddies can relate to. With no colorful visuals and engaging songs, kids religiously tuned in to Jollitown every Sunday, putting weekly gaming comedies for Jollitown's tales of values-driven fun and adventure. The positive feedback from both viewers and parents made it one of the top-rating children's shows in key TV stations. Its success led to the launch of Jollitown Season 2 that brought even better results in ratings and in business.

The show improved brand loyalty among moms and kids, boost the membership of Jollitown Kids Club, increased the sales of Jollitown Kids Party and Jollitown line of Jollitown Kids Meal.

Abigail D. Cuasay-Lee, VP for Marketing of Jollitown says, "The strong partnership between McCann Ericsson and Jollitown has consistently given us significant business results and highly effective campaigns. We have reaped the rewards of the efforts we put in the concept, execution and production of Jollitown and it is however well spent. Jollitown has brought Jollitown even closer to every household and in return, we share with the family the Filipino values we live by. This is our ultimate fulfillment."

McCann Erickson Managing Director Randy Villar expresses his excitement for this achievement. "Being the only Filipino to be recognized by the AME Awards is a great achievement to everyone who has dedicated their time and energy for Jollitown. It is a huge honor to its acknowledged for what we stand for. This is not just for McCann Worldgroup and Jollitown but also for the creativity and talents of the Filipino."

A Second Chance to Get Rid of the Old

Brother Trade-In Madness Promo at Festival Supermall from February 24 to March 2, 2011

There were dozens of people who had their printers, fax, scanners, or copiers brought at Brother's Trade-in Madness Promo. If you have missed it, here's another round to come out and get rid of your old stuff.

February 24, 2011 - Brother's Trade-in Madness Promo recently held at SM Megamall, Power Plant Mall, and SM City Cebu was a big hit! And by popular demand, Brother International Phils. Corp. celebrating ten years of success, presents a second chance to participate in the Trade-in Madness Promo across Festival Supermall.

Bring your old working or non-working fax, printer, copier, scanner of any brand to the Brother Booth at Level 2 Atrium of Festival Supermall, Alabang (between Dominos and The Body Shop) from February 24 to March 2, 2011 only.

Available at 30% OFF are from Brother's latest range of LED machines - HL-2040CN and DCP-9010CN. Get an upfront savings of P7,495.00 when you purchase HL-2040CN and P12,495.00 with DCP-9010CN.

The HL-2040CN is a network-ready Color LED Printer. It is designed to print fast, in vivid colors and in true workgroup-class for little any office space. Furthermore, the HL-2040CN enables users to make an built-in duplexing, both physically and environmentally, with its energy-saving feature and toner save mode, all complemented by Brother's LED Technology.

The DCP-9010CN is a compact and affordable digital color all-in-one solution that combines printing, copying and scanning into one powerful space-saving device. It also produces brilliant color output and offers standalone copying as well as copy reduction or enlargement from 25-400%. Additionally, it provides high-quality color scanning and supports a variety of scan-to features. This all-in-one also provides flexible connectivity with Ethernet and Hi-Speed USB 2.0 interfaces.

Other discounts include: 30% off on HL-2130 Monochrome Laser Printer at Tradein price of Php3,499.00 or Php380.00 on 6 months installments; 20% off on MFC-7340 6-in-1 Monochrome Laser Multi-Function Center at Tradein price of Php8,995.00 or Php1,075.00 on 6 months installment; 21% off on DCP-7055 3-in-1 Monochrome Laser Multi-Function Center at Tradein price of Php5,499.00 or Php800.00 on 6 months installment.

BUSINESS

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Prevent the crime before it happens

BSP expected to relax rules on forex outflow

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is expected to relax the rules governing the outflows of dollars and other foreign currencies this year as central bank officials showed that the inflow of "hot money" was likely to remain its robust growth in 2010.

Documents from the central bank showed that net inflow of foreign portfolio investments reached $650.06 million from the start of the year to Feb. 11, or an increase of 17% percent from only $555.38 million in the same period last year.

'Hot money' inflow forecast to surge in 2011

The net inflow was a result of the $2.4 billion in gross inflow and $1.75 billion in gross outflow.

"Liberalization of foreign exchange rule(s) is something that we continually study and still consider, among other measures, to help address the impact of the inflows," according to BSP Assistant Governor Ma. Cyd Ruelo-Amador.

Amador said that while the rise in foreign capital inflow might slowdown this year, the growth would still be significant.

Last year, net inflow of foreign portfolio investments reached a record high $4.6 billion, or more than 11 times the $398 million recorded in 2009.

The surge in foreign capital inflows, or partially those that are short-term in nature and intended to enjoy to withdraw portfolio investments, created substantial upward pressures on the peso.

This may something exporters hope upon—and policymakers have to address—as the appreciation of the local currency, hitting other factors constant, made Philippine exports more expensive in dollar terms and therefore less competitive at the global market.

What the BSP did last year to help temper the rise in the net inflow of hot money was to relax the rules on foreign capital outflows. For instance, Filipinos residing within the country may now buy dollars from banks up to a maximum amount of $60,000 without documentary requirements. The old rule had set the ceiling at only $50,000.

In the previous years, the move to allow more outflow of foreign currencies was driven mainly by the desire to liberalize the foreign exchange environment to make it easier for businesses and individuals to engage in cross-border transactions.

Last year, the move was also driven by the objective of offsetting the inflows and their impact on the peso.

Besides relaxing rules on bringing out dollars, the BSP likewise bought more dollars in the foreign exchange market to help temper the appreciation of the peso.

Foreign exchange traders said that were it not for the BSP's intervention, the peso could have strengthened more than the $1.84 to $1 rate at the end of 2010.

Banks' NPL ratio declined to 2.88% in Dec.

THE SHRINKING on bad debts of universal and commercial banks fell last December to its lowest level since the Asian financial crisis, a development that industry players credited to stringent lending standards adopted over the past decade.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported Friday that the nonperforming loans (NPL) ratio of universal and commercial banks settled at 2.88 percent at the end of December, down from 3.97 percent the year before.

The latest NPL ratio was also down on a month-on-month basis from 3.07 percent as of end-November.

"This was the 27th consecutive month that the NPL ratio has been below 4 percent. Moreover, this was the lowest recorded NPL ratio for universal and commercial banks since the onset of the 1997 Asian financial crisis," the BSP said in a statement.

The NPL ratio is the proportion of bad debts to the outstanding loans extended by banks. Loans are "bad" or "nonperforming" if they remain unpaid for more than 30 days after maturity.

The drop in the latest NPL ratio was due both to the decline in unpaid loans and the expansion of the total loan portfolio of banks.

On one hand, bad loans fell 0.12 percent to P60.8 billion as of December from P60.9 billion the previous year. On the other, outstanding loans rose 5.7 percent to P1.8 trillion from P1.72 trillion.

Similarly, the nonperforming assets (NPA) ratio—the proportion of bad assets to total assets of banks—also improved in the same period to 3.29 percent from 3.86 percent.

NPAs, which included bad debts and real and other properties acquired due to loan defaults, amounted to P209.2 billion, down 14.8 percent from P110 billion.

Gross assets, meanwhile, expanded 11.8 percent to P6.26 trillion from P5.6 trillion.

Michelle V. Remo

Manufacturing output up 6.6%

By Reinna V. Domingo

THE GROWTH in the value and volume of manufacturing production in December at 6.6 percent and 13.3 percent year-on-year, respectively, according to the National Statistics Office.

NSO data showed that in December, growth in value stayed at a single-digit level for the fourth month while volume has been increasing by two-digits for the 13th consecutive month.

Results from the agency's latest monthly integrated survey of selected industries (MISSI)—which covers 20 major industries—showed that the value kept growing as its industries recorded two-digit growths.

Leading the gainers were miscellaneous manufactured items with 61 percent and petroleum products, 24.4 percent. Also growing in two-digits were textiles (20.2 percent), basic metals (19.9 percent), fabricated metal products (15.9 percent) and beverages (15.2 percent).

Other gainers in December were food manufacturing, rubber and plastic products, electrical machinery, transport equipment, footwear and wearing apparel, publishing and printing, and leather products.

On the other hand, seven sectors showed reduced output value led by tobacco at 49.8 percent.

Other losers were chemical products, non-electrical machinery, wood and wood products, nonmetallic minerals, paper and paper products, and furniture and fixtures.

In terms of volume, four-digit growth was observed in seven industries led by miscellaneous manufactures (48.3 percent), electrical machinery (33.7 percent) and basic metals (33.2 percent).

Fed officials play down crude oil price risks

Caution aired over policy overreaction to spikes

NEW YORK—The Federal Reserve would react to higher oil prices only if the increases spilled over into broader woes, officials of the US central bank said on Friday, even as policy makers rolling the ruler "unstoppable."

In a similar vein, an official of the European Central Bank and policy makers should be wary of responding too soon to the recent jump in oil prices as it may be fleeting.

Oil prices have risen as political tensions in the Middle East and North Africa have raised fears that the unrest could spread to other major oil-producing countries, sending fears of ever higher fuel prices and inflation rides around the world.

The president of the Richmond Federal Reserve Bank, Jeffrey Lacker, said another source of the potential threats to the US economy from the higher oil prices, though he said they could prove temporary if they jump much more or create second-round psychology.

"I think the Fed must pause when we're sure as he don't pose a risk to the recovery," he told reporters after a speech on regulation.

Oil price changes could have the potential, if they were very large, for slowing the recovery, but we have a lot of experience and a lot of data on past increases, and I think it's a manageable risk," he said at a conference organized by the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

Janet Yellen, the Fed's vice chair, said US central bank officials would resist if inflation expectations or underlying inflation pressures rise and began to be reflected in other prices.

"Any increase that would seem to be sustained in inflation expectations, or in core inflation...that looked like it were getting passed through and it was substantial...would...demand a response," said Yellen, who is viewed as among the strongest proponents of aggressive measures to support the economic recovery.

Yellen, who also spoke at the conference organized by the Booth School of Business, has a permanent vote on the Fed's policy-setting panel and her position is seen as close to the consensus views in the institution.

Lacker said there is a danger that prices that are uppermost is consistent Asian—such as retail gasoline prices—could spur bouts of wider inflation, which typically could prove costly and longer to be reflected in other prices.

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A rise in inflation expectations can be self fulfilling if it leads businesses to raise prices and workers to demand higher wages. However, with the US unemployment rate stubbornly high, Fed officials do not see much scope for wage increases.

An official from the European Central Bank said policy makers should be wary of responding too soon to the recent jump in oil prices.

"It depends very much if it is temporary or not, which means necessary policy-makers not respond immediately to such a supply shock, nor should it," Vitor Gaspar, the ECB's vice president, said in response to questions at the Booth School conference.

Currently, it appears unlikely that oil prices will rise high enough to impact, he said, though he mentioned that central banks must be vigilant about inflation and be willing to act if necessary.

"We cannot allow inflation to be embedded in the economy," he said.

Some Fed policy makers have suggested it might be time to reduce or taper off the central bank's $600 billion bond-buying program to help the US economy's recovery, but others feel higher oil prices could create headwinds to the recovery.

Oil price retreated from $115/barrel peaks of almost $120/barrel in London on Thursday to lower below $112 on Friday on bands efforts to plug supply gaps.

Brent crude for April's long-term contracts to lower financial conditions still remain at the time scenes for the central bank to withdraw its support for the US economy.

"Once the recovery is well established and the appropriate time for beginning to withdraw policy support is by drawing near, the (Fed) naturally need to adjust its 'extended period' guidance and develop an alternative communications strategy," she said. Reuters

Gaming fans snap up Nintendo 3DS

TOKYO: Hikaru Ishihara, the first person in purchase Nintendo's 3DS game player, poses for photographers at an electronic store in Tokyo. Sanwa has profiting by by among the first to buy Nintendo's new 3D-capable game player throughout stores in Tokyo Saturday, but longer queues in competition from smartphones and tablets may cliff squeeze demand for the latest Nintendo gadget. AFP

TOKYO—Game fans his signature scores said's on Saturday to be among the first to get their hands on Nintendo's new 3D-capable game player, but the gadget's sales may be squeezed in the longer term by competition from smartphones and tablets.

The 3DS, set to launch in the United States and Europe in a month, has sparked excitement as the first games device to offer gamers free 3D gaming, and it has the advantage of launching 10 months ahead of Sony's rival Next Generation Portable.

Nintendo, based in Japan's ancient former capital of Kyoto, is sticking to a tried and trusted formula—a dedicated portable games device with software available on cartridges that cost $30 or more.

That worked for the original DS, launched in 2004, which appealed across the board from school children to the elderly.

But casual gamers now have the option of free or inexpensive games available on mobile devices from Apple iPhone or based on Google's Android operating system.

Rival Sony Corp., whose PlayStation Portable (PSP) series caught up with the DS, has gone head-to-head with them upstairs, announcing last month it would make some games available on other companies' Android-based devices and offer a new development system for casual gamers, a strategy rivals its own risks.

"Even if they have excellent games on other platforms no one else they will still lose hardware longer term," said David Gibson, head of equity research at Macquarie Securities in Tokyo.

"Nintendo's competitive advantage is that they develop both hardware and software. I don't think you will see a change to Nintendo strategy longer term, but because of smartphones they will not see the same growth they once had," he added.

Nintendo expects no less than 4 million units of the 3DS to fly off the shelves in the three months to March 31. The original DS sold 145 million units worldwide to become last year.

"Of course it will be difficult to sell more than the DS to Japan or other developed countries," said analyst Shun Tanaka of SMBC Friend Securities in Tokyo.

"Even if they have excellent games in regions like South America and Asia, it may eventually sell even more than the DS," he said.

On Saturday, gamers lined up at the Bic Camera electronics store in Yurakucho, central Tokyo, despite the fact that initial supplies were sold out in a single day of pre-orders on Jan. 28 and the 25,000 yen ($300) price tag.

"I have been away from playing games for a while, but 3DS brought me back to it," said Hiroki Gengaji, a 39 year-old from Kawasaki in the suburbs of Tokyo. "What Nintendo games can do is different from what the 3DS can do—it's not that either one a superior."

The launch is expected to take Nintendo's sagging sales and anticipation has helped push the company's shares up more than 20 percent since they hit a 30-month low on Dec. 21, two weeks before Nintendo revised down its annual profit and sales forecasts. Reuters

US growth trimmed, consumers more upbeat, says survey

WASHINGTON—US consumer confidence hit a three-year high in February, suggesting the economy remained on a solid footing despite soaring gasoline prices.

The rise in sentiment was a hopeful sign for the economic recovery after the government said on Friday that growth in the fourth quarter was not as robust as it previously estimated.

The Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan survey's index on consumer sentiment climbed to 77.5, the highest since January 2008, from 74.2 in January—indicating consumers were weathering higher gasoline prices for now amid optimism about the labor market.

"Consumers do appear to be taking the rise in gasoline and food prices in stride, which is very encouraging," said Ryan Sweet, a senior economist at Moody's Analytics in West Chester, Pennsylvania. "Consumers have been in a better mood for a few bumps along the road, but I do think the consumer will continue to play an important role in the recovery."

Across domestic product grew at an annualized rate of 2.8 percent in the fourth quarter, the Commerce Department said, a downward revision from its initial 3.2 percent estimate a month ago. Economists had expected GDP growth to be revised up to a 3.3 percent pace.

Political unrest in Libya and parts of the Middle East have pushed crude prices above $100 a barrel, sparking fears among some economists that growth could slow this year.

Economists at JPMorgan lowered their forecast for first quarter GDP growth to 3.5 percent from 4.0 percent, citing sullen than-expected consumer spending and possible headwinds from the oil price spike. Harsh winter weather is also seen as a factor weighing on growth.

Bridgewater Associates' Reserve Bank president Jeffrey Lacker said on Friday he did not think oil above $100 a barrel or gasoline over $3 a gallon would derail the US recovery.

"So far this seems quite manageable so far," he said on CNBC. "The economy has been able to absorb changes I think as long as expectations are managed well, we're going to get through this without a boom in inflation." The national price for gasoline rose almost five cents this week to an average $3.19 a gallon, the highest reprentive since Oct. 6, 2008. Reuters

Tanker victory spells risks for Boeing

NEW YORK—Boeing's triumph over European rivalAIRBUS for a major US Air Force tanker contract puts risks amid defense spending cutbacks and trade rifts delays in its commercial projects.

The defense department declared Thursday, forming the "clear winner" of a $30-plus billion contract to supply up to 179 refueling tankers to the Air Force.

It is undoubtedly a major prize for the firm, but industry analysts highlighted the challenges that come with substituting up what the company's chief him staff called an "aggressive" bid.

"Since the EC-30J is a very compact, twin-jet fixed-price contract for both development and production phases, it carries some execution risks for Boeing," Standard & Poor's analysts said in a client note.

Particularly they said, "given the company's substantial cost overruns on some of its commercial and military programs in recent years." Hkeudy's la. recent levies and that the difficulties could more early for Boeing, in the initial development phase.

"The development could eliminate expansion revenues from other key programs including the next-generation supp ort of the B707 Dreamliner," said Robert Lamborn, senior vice president at Moody's.

The tanker contract comes as Boeing is under pressure from to new 787 Dreamliner program that is now running three years behind the original schedule.

"Given Boeing's headaches getting its new passenger planes out the door, investors should be concerned about the company's ability to deliver the new tanker on time and on budget," said Neil Assink of 3rd Millennium.

And budget still lie at the forefront of policymakers' minds, as the Pentagon, like other US government bodies, struggles with the country's massive budget deficit.

"If Boeing misses deadlines and busts budgets, it's reasonable to expect that the Congress and the Pentagon will be reluctant to go ahead with the full complement of tankers," he said.

But there are definite rewards for the company, despite the risks.

Jefferies analysts said the contract spells benefits of "a few pennies per share" in the short term, and in the long-term a healthier business.

"Tomorrow's benefit is that the award adds balance to Boeing's backorder base, and constitutes a successful product line into the foreseeable future," they said, referring to the 767 commercial aircraft that will serve as the basis for the KC-46A tanker.

The 767 production line "would have closed within the next year without this win," commenting to Richard Aboulafia, an analyst at aerospace consultancy Teal Group.

Orders for the long-haul, twin-body plane, which entered service in 1982, have dwindled in recent years; Only three 767s were manufactured last year.

But whatever the drawbacks and advantages, the contract does not price in the bag.

Thursday was the second time Boeing bested Airbus parent EADS for the contract in the world's largest defense market. AFP

BofA, Wells, Citi see foreclosure probe penalties

CHARLOTTE, N.C./NEW YORK—Bank of America, Citigroup and Wells Fargo—three of the biggest banks in the United States—said they could face fines from a regulatory probe into the foreclosure practices of mortgage lenders.

The statements, made in regulatory filings on Friday are the most direct admission yet from major banks that they could have to pay significant amounts of money to settle probes and lawsuits alleging that they improperly foreclosed on homes.

Bank of America, the largest US bank by assets, said the probe could lead to "material fines" and "significant" legal expenses in 2011.

Wells Fargo & Co., the largest US mortgage lender, said it is likely to face fines or sanctions, such as a foreclosure moratorium or suspension, imposed by federal or state regulators. Citigroup Inc. said government agency enforcement action was likely and could include civil money penalties.

Citigroup Inc. said it could pay fines or set up principal evaluation programs.

The biggest US mortgage lenders are being investigated by 50 state attorneys general, federal agencies and bank regulators for banner-without having proper paperwork in place or without having properly reviewed paperwork before signing it.

The bad documentation threatens to slow down the foreclosure process and involve some representation.

Bank of America's statement was the first official authorities have said they could seek as much as $20 billion in could from lenders in order to the foreclosure probe, which began last fall.

Analysts said the acknowledgment of potential foreclosure liabilities highlights the continuing struggles of the largest US banks to put the mortgage crisis behind them.

"Are they trying? Sure, but this is not an easy fix and these kinds of problems are going to hang around the banks for years," said Matt McCormick, a portfolio manager with Cincinnati-based Bahl & Gaynor Investment Group. Reuters

Best Buy, Home Depot find tough times in China

SHANGHAI—Home Depot is no longer open for home improvements in Beijing. Best Buy Inc. doubled its number of electronics stores now not tied for China.

This may well be the world's biggest and fastest-growing consumer market, but foreign retailers are finding China is no easy sell as tough competition and a boost in online shopping prompt some big investors to flee or drastically alter their market strategy.

Minneapolis-based Best Buy opened its flagship store and other outlets in Shanghai just a few years ago, to great fanfare. This week it closed all nine of its brand name stores in China, shrinking employees and investments. On Friday, hundreds of people were lined up outside the city's biggest store to seek help with returns and further customer services.

Best Buy says it plans to increase the number of its Five Star outlets—acquired through the company's purchase of provincial retailer Jiangsu Five Star Appliance Co. in 2006—to about 220 by end 2011. It aims to increase the number of Five Star locations for its Best Buy branded outlets and plans to reopen two of them.

"We at Best Buy will not withdraw from the Chinese market. We will try to find new ways to develop," said a senior executive in Beijing who spoke to Shanghai's busy downtown flagship shopping district.

Despite its expanded Five Star presence, dismissing the big blue eye lets in some of Shanghai's choicest locations signals the company misjudged the fast-changed Analysts say.

"My sense is that (the) first operation to set a model similar to the one they use in the US," said Tomson Stanley, vice president of the consultancy Monitor Group. "Maybe their people were good at doing what Best Buy does back in America but not at operating a retailer in China."

Last month, Home Depot closed its last store in Beijing, one of several outlets it shuttered since 2008. The world's biggest home improvement retailer has remained outlets in some key provincial cities, where costs are reasonability lower and competition perhaps less intense.

Meanwhile, regulators recently ordered up to 16,000 more (RTS.300) Best Buy, Carrefour and Wal-Mart for over charging on items ranging from underwear to dangling floor—a sore point when authorities are jittery over inflation. Shanghai newspaper reports the executive Carrefour, a French chain, of not paying its employees for overtime.

Some foreign retailers are thriving in China. IKEA and Pizza Hut owner Yum Brands Inc. saw its annual operating profit surge 26 percent last year, pushing toward the $1 billion mark, thanks to the voracious Chinese appetite for western fast foods. The Shanghai century of foreign fashion retailers like H&M and Zara is also pushed.

Other retailers looking to strategic rescue from China's richest city, Apple Inc. reportedly plans a yet bigger shop right on Shanghai's famous Nanjing Road to help accommodate weekend crowds jammed into its two currently opened operations stores.

China's economy is the modern driving by more than 10 percent a year, China's growing affluence makes it a market low companies can afford to ignore. But hitting the right notes with Chinese consumers is crucial, and not always easy, analysts say.

Chinese customers build a growing a premium for Best Buy's offer of a place are more experience and helpful service, including its Geek Squad computer troubleshooters, said Carl Vaughan, executive consultant with Analysys International's office in Beijing. AP

Smart, Acto seek to empower PUV drivers through Pasada Load

LEGAZPI, PHILIPPINES – Smart Communications Inc. (Smart) and the Alliance of Concerned Transport Operators (Acto) recently launched a partnership aimed at arresting unscrupulous practices that will empower members of the transport sector, chiefly through a product called Pasada Load.

Pasada Load is a mobile loading account created specifically to enable transportation jeepney drivers to sell load while in transit.

Available in paper strips designed like bus tickets, each P30 Pasada Load card can easily be dispensed by jeepney drivers to their passengers, providing them an additional airtime income that they can take home at the end of the day.

Extending the reach of the partnership, Acto benefits from a special discount from Smart, the earnings from which goes to a fund for the welfare of members drivers. This fund, in turn, benefits a scholarship program institutionalized by Acto for the families of its members.

"We are very happy to participate in an industry leader that has a big heart for the transport sector. With the increasing fuel and toll prices, our members are no longer enough to meet our daily needs. Smart's Pasada Load provides an additional source of livelihood to our 400,000 members nationwide who become de facto load consumers, and their families," shared Go Wan De Lazo, national president of Acto.

Pasada Load is powered by Obo Pinoy, a homegrown mobile commerce application provider.

SMART's Jay Cruzabra (left), Manuel Perez, head of Smart's key accounts department; Ting Jimenez, head of Smart's sales and distribution group; Danilo Wakat, head of Smart's wireless consumer division; Kuillen de Lara, Acto national president; and John Pozon, president of Obo Pinoy

DOLE-BWC awards Pinemia

Labor Undersecretary Dominador Say (left) and Bureau of Working Conditions Director Ma. Criselda Sunio present the Department of Labor and Employment-Bureau of Working Conditions Gawad Kaligtasan at Kalusugan award to Pinemia Properties Inc. Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Jonathan Ang during the ceremony held at the Dusit Thani Manila on Feb. 24. Pinemia received the award for its Pinemia Properties Inc. Corporate Center project. The award is given to companies that have zero lost time accidents for a specified number of years. Pinemia's project has been accident-free for 1.5 million man-hours. Pinemia is a property development company that has developed residential, commercial and industrial projects in Metro Manila and Cebu. Pinemia's current projects include Pinemia Corporate Center in Alabang, Muntinlupa City, Pinemia Corporate Center in Cebu City, Pinemia Residences in Alabang, Muntinlupa City, Pinemia Residences in Cebu City, Pinemia Residences in Davao City, Pinemia Residences in Iloilo City, Pinemia Residences in Cagayan de Oro City, Pinemia Residences in Bacolod City, Pinemia Residences in Tagaytay City, Pinemia Residences in Baguio City, Pinemia Residences in Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Pinemia Residences in Clark Freeport Zone, Pinemia Residences in Boracay Island, Pinemia Residences in Puerto Princesa City, Pinemia Residences in Palawan, Pinemia Residences in Bohol, Pinemia Residences in Siargao Island, Pinemia Residences in Camiguin Island, Pinemia Residences in Dumaguete City, Pinemia Residences in Zamboanga City, Pinemia Residences in Cotabato City, Pinemia Residences in General Santos City, Pinemia Residences in Iligan City, Pinemia Residences in Butuan City, Pinemia Residences in Cagayan de Oro City, Pinemia Residences in Davao City, Pinemia Residences in Cebu City, Pinemia Residences in Iloilo

PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION

SINCE 1954

E-mail: pmai@pmai.com.ph
MEMBERSHIP SERVICES INFORMATION
ACCOUNT MANAGER 0908 [illegible]

Philippine Marketing Association, Suite 1906-B, West Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Ortigas Center, Pasig. Tele: 6346891; 6361451

MESSAGE

Ms. Veronica Bella Torres
President

For almost eighteen years now, I had been an active member of the Philippine Marketing Association, having been elected to the Board for several consecutive terms.

This year, I renew my desire to serve, as the 2011 President of the PMA, with the theme: Commitment to Marketing Excellence." I am proud to lead a group of hard-working individuals who share the passion for the organization.

As one, I sincerely aspire the membership to pledge your support in many programs throughout the year. I also ask friends outside our association creatively, and to add your precious time to fellowship with us and enjoy the harvest.

The Board looks to the membership as "EVAS for instead: Together Everybody Achieves More."

May God bless us all!

Jose Victor Lisalima, Inducting Officer of 2011 Board

Torch over of gavel, Dr. Mick Fernandez and Vice-Mayor De Torres

2011 Induction of Officers and Directors

JANUARY 26, 2011, MARRIOTT MANILA HOTEL

Dr. Mick Fernandez (Mr. International Alliance) Dr. Hank Garcia (Mr. Ad-EPP); Eric Aquino (Mr. Planning & Development); Rene Advincula (Board Secretary); Nancy G. Reyonan (VP-Educational); Henry Tenedero (EVP); Ric Miguel Tiqui (VP-Membership); Jose Pinon Endico (Governing Officer); President Noy De Torres; Alex Flores (VP-Chapters); Socorro Abad Cruz (Treasurer); Antonio Pedro (Fellowship & Sports); Efren Cortejos (Dir. Agro-Awards); Tiqui Javier (VP-Youth & Academe); Jimmy Tee (Dir-Community Affairs)

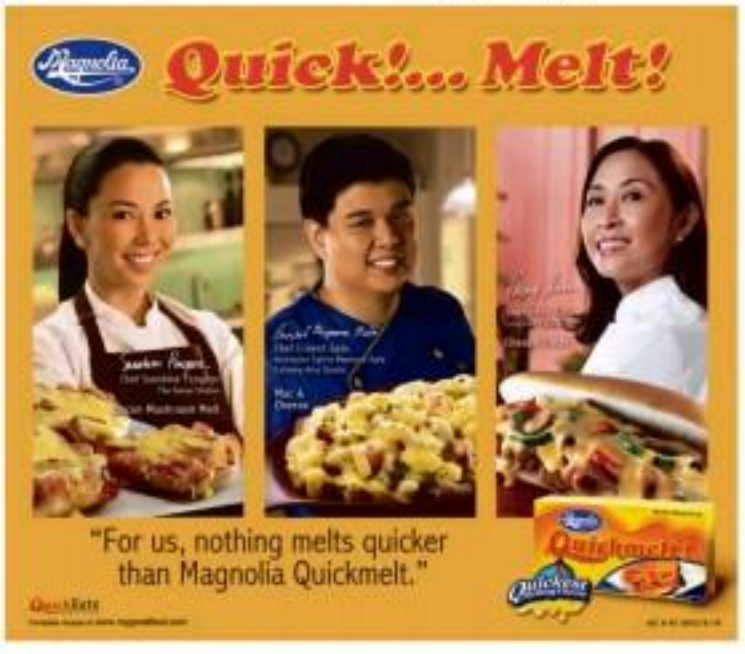
Members of the Philippine Marketing Association with Officers and Directors for 2011

Jimmy Dykiauco (2010 EVP) and Dr. Mick Fernandez (2010 Pres) with Tri-annual Achievement Awardees Jose Arevalo, Manuel Calimag, Noel de Guzman, Henry Ong, Adolfo Arce Jr. and Pili Barranco

Dr. Mick Fernandez with Tran Gist awardee Vilma Reyes and Jimmy Dykiauco

Tran and Executive, Silver Star Awards Dr. Mick Fernandez and Jimmy Dykiauco

Dr. Mick Fernandez & Jimmy Dykiauco with year-end awardees Ogi Rodriguez & Adolfo Arce Jr.



Dr. Mick Fernandez with Presidential awardee Mitch Salvacion

Dr. Mick Fernandez with Presidential awardee Manuel Calimag-Calimag

Dr. Mick Fernandez and AME President Adolfo Arce Jr.

BUSINESS

Mobile Alert | Website | E-mail | Text to your landmark

More firms plan expansion this year

BSP notes rise in employment outlook index

By Michelle V. Ramos

MORE BUSINESSES have indicated plans to expand operations and hire more workers in the second quarter, stirring hopes that the country's employment picture would be better.

According to a survey conducted by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the "employment outlook index" of enterprises in the country for the second quarter of 2011 improved by +23 percent from +21 percent for the same period last year.

The index is measured as the difference between the percentage of respondents who said their firms intended to hire more workers in the next quarter and the percentage of those who said their companies had no such plans.

"An indicator supporting expectations of sustained growth in 2011 was the employment outlook index for the next quarter, which improved further," the BSP said in a report showing the results of the survey.

The "expansion plans index"—which is the difference between the percentage of respondents who said their firms have plans to expand operations and produce more and those who said the opposite—rose to +22.8 percent from only +19.9 percent.

BSP Assistant Governor Ma. Cyd Tuaño-Amador told reporters last Friday that favorable plans of businesses in the country for the next quarter supported expectations of the government that the economy this year would sustain the robust growth of 7 percent last year.

The economy, measured in terms of gross domestic product, grew 7.3 percent in 2010 to register its fastest pace of expansion in 34 years.

There are doubts, however, about the economy's ability to post another above-7-percent growth this year given fiscal efforts and challenges from the global economy including rising prices of imported oil and food products that could dampen consumption of non-essentials.

The government, however, is so far sticking to the growth target of 7.8 percent for this year.

While the economy registered a robust growth last year, that was not enough to cut the country's unemployment rate, which stood at 7.1 percent as of October last year.

Economists said the stagnant unemployment rate despite the growing economy was due to the fact that more people were joining the country's labor force. To trim the jobless rate, more job-generating investments had to be made.

Unemployment is one of the reasons cited by economists for the relatively huge problem on poverty. Although the Philippines has managed to consistently grow over the years, even amid the global economic recession in 2009, the growth has not been able to create a decline in the poverty incidence.

NAT'KNAL: Economic and Development Authority Deputy Director-General for Investment Programming Rolando Tungpalan (left) and Asian Development Bank Philippine country office director Maung Jun sign a memorandum of understanding to strengthen the Philippines' Public-Private Partnership (PPP) program with the Capacity Development Technical Assistance Project. The CDTA will support the government's PPP agenda by providing technical assistance to improve the government's PPP systems and capacity and by funding the Project Development and Monitoring Facility (PDMF) for the preparation, competitive bidding, negotiation and monitoring of PPP projects.

Gov't to give public access to data on fund disbursements

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MALACAÑANG IS harnessing technology and electronic processes to give the public access to information on the release of government funds, especially allocations from Congress, Budget Secretary Florencio B. Abad said.

Abad said this was part of efforts to firm up transparency and fight corruption as the Aquino administration pushes for sustained economic growth that would reduce poverty and create jobs.

The budget chief was speaking during the Philippine Development Forum that Malacañang co-organized with the World Bank, at the Bellevue Philippine Plaza in Pasay City on Saturday.

"In our national expenditure management, we have already introduced mandatory public disclosure rules in budgeting," Abad said.

"Starting with the 2011 budget, agencies are mandated to upload on their websites information on the allocation and disbursement of funds, including details on the status and outputs of activities," he explained.

Abad said the government also planned to leverage on new technologies in ensuring that citizens could readily access information on state affairs.

"A special webpage has been launched for disbursing fund releases from congressional allocations and other lump-sum funds," he said.

"Also on the 15th of this year, our e-procurement system will already enable online bidding of projects and their real-time monitoring by the public," he added.

Abad further said that other transparency initiatives that involve electronic processes were currently in the pipeline.

This included one under a new project, the Government Integrated Financial Management Information System, which can provide regular, timely and accurate information and reports to oversight and line agencies as well as to the public," he said.

Earlier this month, Abad said the government saved P165 million in newspaper advertising expenses over the past 10 years by using an electronic system to bid out contracts and engage in other transactions.

We, the family of the late

GREGORIO A. ASILO

beloved Patriarch of our clan

Clarita M. dela Rosa

with

Sheila Alicia A. Pangilinan & husband Reynaldo
Jonathan S. Portillo & husband Marivee
Jonathan A. Hernandez & husband Clemente, Jr.

TO GOD ALMIGHTY AT SA IYONG LAHAT,
MARAMING SALAMAT PO!

PILAR BUYSON VILLARAMA

of Bacolor, Pampanga and Baliuag, Bulacan

Now peacefully rests in the infinite grace and goodness of our Lord Jesus Christ on the 26th day of February, 2011 at the age of 90.

Her loving husband, Pedro V. Villarama, Jr. (†);

Her children: Willie and Tessie Buhain, Orange (†); Josie and Ed Cruz, and Lorie;

Her grandchildren: Cora and her mother Mamam Estrada; Jael and Jason Jiang, Mariel and Jane Manese and their mother Sylvia Sup; Rafael Miguel "RM"; Janice Pilar, John Peter Bicasa and Chito Giardin; Denise and Jerry (†) Lopez, Benny and Pia Rufino;

Her great grandchildren: Sofia and Gabriella Villarama, Anela Manese, Joshua Jiang, Noah Giardin, Chiara and Sheri Lopez, Gianna Rufino;

His nephews and nieces;

request the prayer readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla de S. Francisco, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City. Interment will be on Wednesday, March 2, at the Manila Memorial Park, Paranaque City after the 1:00 pm mass at Santuario de San Antonio Parish.

LEOVINO F. ROSALI

of Damarao, Capiz

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 25, 2011 at the age of 98.

His remains lie in state at The Ascension Chapels by Arlington, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, 5th of March 2011 at the Hinilagang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Ascension Chapel.

CLASSIFIEDS

CENTRAL PANGASINAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

San Carlos City, Pangasinan
Tel. # (075) 542-2532 / 542-2533

INVITATION TO BID

The Central Pangasinan Electric Cooperative, Inc., a (CPEC) with office at Poblacion Pacalat, San Carlos City, Pangasinan invites all qualified bidders for the supply and delivery of the following electrical materials and equipments:

SCHEDULE I : Electrical Conductors
SCHEDULE II : Pole Line Hardwares
SCHEDULE III : 10MVA Medium and Potential Transformers
SCHEDULE IV : Steel Poles

All interested bidders shall submit within of 3-fold and secure bidding documents by indorsing to (NAME) and detailed list of materials by BAC accredited from February 28, 2011 to March 8, 2011 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00). Submission of sealed bid will be on March 14, 2011 (Monday) at 2:00 PM (LATE bids) at CPEPC Old main office Board Room, Pacdal St., San Carlos City, Pangasinan wherein your bid will be opened in our presence or that of your representative.

Interest further to submit your sealed bid/proposal and latest company profile in the prescribed format. Bid for one or two items only is acceptable. Please submit BID BOND equivalent to two (two) one-half percent (2 1/2%) of the total bid price if it is a cash or manager's check or if it is a surety bond it must be submitted in two percent (2.0%) of total bid price. Bid bond less than of the required amount will be automatically disqualified. Bids/proposals submitted beyond the specified date and time will not be accepted.

CPEPC/BAC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY OF THE REQUIRED FORMALITY THEREIN AND ACCEPTS THE MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

(Sgd.) RODRIGO F. CRIPUE
BAC Chairperson

Noted by:
(Sgd.) JOSEFINO S. PANGANIBAN
General Manager

NEECO II Area 2

NUEVA ECIJA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. – Area 2

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The NUEVA ECIJA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. – Area 2 (NEECO II – Area 2) pursuant to the provisions of the CONSTITUTION OF NEECO II – Area 2 RULE NO.6, NUEVA ECIJA LOCATED AT BARANGAY BOLIGHO, STA. ROSA, NUEVA ECIJA.

The Pre-Bid Conference (cost on 1st March 2011 at 10:00 in the morning hereof the conference room of NEECO II – Area 2 Main Office, Mabini St.cor. Bonifacio St., Lanuza Avenue, Poblacion III, Cabanatuan City. There will be a mini-orientation regarding the project at Brgy.Libertad.

The Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc. – Area 2 hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or informalities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Electric Cooperative.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) ELPIDIO B. CASTILLO
BAC Chairperson

Noted by:
(Sgd.) RAMON M. DE VERA
General Manager

CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

More Classified Ads

DepEd Division of
Taguig City and Pateros.....A26

Colombo Water District

Lakeview Subdivision, Mabini, Colombo, Jaguar
Tel. Nos. 545-1111 / 545-1112 / 545-1113
Fax No. 545-1114

Invitation to Bid

Supply and Delivery of 2,500 pieces 15" Hume Water without Tailpiece and Nuts

1. The Colombo Water District, through its duly authorized BAC, invites bids for the supply and delivery of 2,500 pieces 15" Hume Water without Tailpiece and Nuts. Delivery of the Goods is required within 30 days from the date of purchase order.
2. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".
3. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Colombo Water District and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below during 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. of March 14, 2011 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the bidding documents in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).
4. The Colombo Water District will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on March 21, 2011 @ 10:00 a.m. at the Colombo Water District Conference Room, Mabini, Colombo, Jaguar which is optional.
5. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 p.m. of March 28, 2011. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of a bid bond issued by a surety or guarantee company duly certified by the Insurance Commission or manager's check, pay order or cash in the amount of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00). Bid bonds must be valid for 120 days.
6. Bid opening shall be on March 28, 2011 @ 2:00 p.m. at the Colombo Water District Conference Room, Mabini, Colombo, Jaguar. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend the activity.
7. The Colombo Water District reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
8. For further information, please refer to:

Ms. Maria Rosa Ramos
BAC Secretariat
Colombo Water District
Lakeview Subdivision, Mabini, Colombo, Jaguar
Tel. Nos. 545-1111 / 545-1112 / 545-1113
Fax No. 545-1114

(Sgd.) MRS. PAULINA A. SABADO
Authorized Signature

Noted by:
(Sgd.) MR. ROLANDO B. SABADO, JR.
Chairman, Board of Directors

Republic of the Philippines
ANGELA SIERRA TY MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER

INVITATION TO BID FOR
(Procurement of Drugs & Medicines)

1. The Angela Sierra Ty Memorial Medical Center, through the Hospital Operating Funds (HOF) intends to apply the sum of Two Million Pesos (P2,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for (Procurement of Drugs & Medicines) Date required is duration of the ABC which can be automatically extended to one (1) year.
2. The Angela Sierra Ty Memorial Medical Center now invites bids for the Procurement of Drugs & Medicines. Delivery of the Goods is required within 30 working days. Bidders should have completed, within (1) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section II - Instructions to Bidders.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

   Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/nationals, partnerships or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) citizenship or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.
4. Prospective bidders may obtain further information from Angela Sierra Ty Memorial Medical Center and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be acquired by interested bidders on (February 28-April 8, 2011) from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos.
6. The Angela Sierra Ty Memorial Medical Center will hold a Pre-Bid Conference at 10:00 a.m., March 15, 2011 at Conference Room, Annex Building, ASTMMC, Tandang Sora, Quezon City which is optional for all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before (10:00 a.m., April 8, 2011). All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of a bid bond, manager's check, pay order/guarantee or irrevocable letter of credit.

   Bid opening shall be on (10:01 a.m., April 8, 2011) at (Conference Room, Annex Building, ASTMMC, Tandang Sora, Quezon City) in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend the activity. Bids will be opened at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. The Angela Sierra Ty Memorial Medical Center reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
9. For further information, please refer to:

   DAISY G. ARCEO, MD, MM
   MMC Office
   ASTMMC
   Tel. No. (02) 712-0301
   Address: (blank)@yahoo.com.ph

(Sgd.) DAISY G. ARCEO, MD, MM
BAC Chairperson in the Authorized Representative of the BAC Chairperson)

(Date – February 28, 2011)

RFM CORPORATION

RFM Corporation, one of the country's biggest food and beverage company is currently looking for qualified Distributors for the National Capital Region (NCR). The desired distributor should have strong financial capability, commensurate experience in product distribution and a positive mindset. Interested parties may send their letter of intent and company profile via email to rrillescas@rfm.com.ph or send them to the address below:

Sales Administration Group
3rd Floor, RFM Corporate Center
Pioneer cor. Sheridan Sts.
Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. 637-8918

NOTICE OF PROCEEDINGS

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BUSINESS RENTAL

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PUBLIC NOTICES

Legal Notice

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

NuGen

Incorporated

NuGen, Inc. is a regional based business process outsourcing (BPO) company specializing in IT and communications outsourcing. We have many openings in Manila with our multinational clients.

1. Tech Support /Helpdesk Engineers

- Excellent English and communication skills
- Attend to ACD Calls
- Monitor Fault Tickets and Requests assigned
- Resolve and close all request tickets within SLDs/SLAs
- Escalate and highlight issues in a timely manner
- Required to work on shifts
- Minimum 1 year Call Center experience
- Minimum 2 years technical experience on Win 2k, XP, Vista and MS Office
- Knowledge in VPN Connection, browsers, VNC, Remote desktop Connection
- MS Certified Professional (MCP) or MSCE is an advantage

2. Voice/Network Engineers

- Implementation of Nortel/Avaya/Cisco/Mice bigger solutions
- Processing of requests from end users.
- Problem tickets to ensure issues are resolved.
- Provide support for technical request and IT and communication projects.
- Provide solutions and recommendations to end users.
- Project Management for mid to large scale projects
- Certification of Avaya, Nortel, Cisco, Mice bigger
- 2-3 years experience in Avaya/Nortel/Cisco/Mice bigger
- Knowledge in Contact Center eg CMS, Symposium
- Good English, written and verbal

3. IVR Call Flow Engineers

- Design/create Avaya Voice Portal call flow design
- Translate business requirements into call flows
- Enhance or optimize existing call flow designs
- Analyze reports and statistics to enhance call flow design
- Minimum 5 years experience in Voice Portal or Avaya Voice Technology
- Certification in Avaya Voice Portal or any other IVR platforms.

4. Avaya Voice Portal Engineers

- Provide an expert level of support to the Customer Service Centers
- Incident Management – expert level operational support
- Provide technical assistance
- Change Management
- Liaise with other regional groups/ part of global expert support
- Minimum 5 years in Avaya / WFO Call Centre environment
- Avaya IVR or AAD or AVP
- Knowledge of Unified Messaging
- Knowledge of Informix/ MS-SQL/Oracle

5. Metrics Analyst

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Generates the metrics of the team (SLD, AHT, etc.etc).
- Conduct review of processes and make improvements.
- Compilations of the statistics, reports, graph and charts.
- Conduct in-depth analysis of data.
- Minimum 2 years experience in IT support and metrics
- Excellent in MS Excel, MS Access, Powerpoint, Visio, Crystal
- General desktop OS (Win XP, Vista, etc.) support.
- Excellent communication and documentation skills
- Conversant in presentation tools like Powerpoint and Visio
- Process oriented and good communications skills

6. IT Project Managers

- Manage regional and global IT projects in IT and communication
- Manage BPO migration projects
- 3 to 5 years in project management
- PMP certification or equivalent is an advantage
- Manage internal users and external vendors to ensure project success.
- Conversant in MS Office, MS Project, Visio

All positions will require a Degree in ECE, IT, Computer Engineer or equivalent except for metrics analyst.

Remunerations will commensurate working experience and education qualifications for all positions.

Applicants are to email their resumes to nicky.posada@nugs.com or thisa.kammeedis@nugs.com.

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education intends to apply the sum of Philippine Peso [illegible] being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payment under the contract for the one calculated project as detailed in the schedule of Contracts for:

Item No.	Item Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Contract Completion Time
1	Construction of Two (2) Storey Twelve (12) Classroom (Typhoon Yolanda Recovery School)	PhP 12,000,000	365 Calendar Days
	TOTAL	PhP 12,000,000	

The Department of Education, Division of Cebu City, through its duly authorized Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), now invites bids for the above mentioned project. Bids received in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) shall be rejected at once upon by the BAC. Bidder may bid for one or all items, and be invited to negotiate if situations and circumstances allow as per RA9184.

Prospective bidders should have completed a similar contract with the value of not less than 50% of the ABC of the contract and should submit with its bid the valid PCAB License and Registration for the Category, Size and type of contract.

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, cooperatives and partnerships or associations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to corporations, partnerships or associations organized under the laws of the Philippines of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the capital stock outstanding and entitled to vote belongs to citizens of the Philippines, unless otherwise provided in the Philippine Constitution and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) (RA 9184, Section 5 and other applicable provisions stated in part 1 of this Bidding Document).

Bidding will be conducted using the "open competitive bidding" as described in paragraph 2 of RA 9184 and is open to all interested contractors as specified in the Philippine Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) Resolution No. 09-2008 dated 28 August 2008 (revised IRR), which is available at www.gppb.gov.ph.

Activity	Date and Time	Venue
Issuance of Bidding Documents	February 28, 2011 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Cebu City Division of Cebu City
Pre-Bid Conference	March 1, 2011 10:00 a.m.	Cebu City Division of Cebu City
Submission and Opening of Bids	March 15, 2011 10:00 a.m.	Cebu City Division of Cebu City

The Bidding Documents may be requested in person by any interested contractor from the address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents pursuant to the latest Guidelines issued by the GPPB, in the amount of Philippine Peso [illegible] and may be purchased from the address below during the period stated in the schedule of the activities.

The Bids and Awards Committee may reject any bid or all bids, if it finds the bidding process, or any part thereof, to be attended by fraud, collusion or any other act to the detriment of the Government, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders.

[illegible]
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

SMI

SAGITTARIUS MINES, INC.

SMI is a responsible mining organization in partnership with the Filipino people bringing prosperity and improved quality of life in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner.

We are now hiring

- Administration Supervisor
- Administration Specialist
- Ambulance Driver (2)
- Community Sustainability Officer (2)
- Civil Works Supervisor
- Corporate Security Superintendent
- Driver – Corporate Security (2) / Makati (1)
- Environment Advisor – EMS (2)
- Executive Secretary – Makati
- Field Assistant (5)
- FPIC Superintendent – Mining
- Geologist (2)
- ICT Supervisor – Makati Server Operations
- Information Security Officer
- Information and Communication Technology Superintendent
- Nursery Specialist (3)
- Land Acquisition and Management Advisor (6)
- Land Acquisition and Management Officer (10)
- Project Approvals Advisor
- Property and Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor
- Quantity Engineer/Cost Estimator
- Resettlement Officer – Capacity Building
- Resettlement Supervisor – Social Investment
- Safety Supervisor – Operations
- Stakeholder Engagement and Partnership Supervisors
- Stakeholder Engagement and Partnership Officers
- Shift Security Officer – Pioneering Camp
- Tenements Advisor

For additional details and other vacancies, interested applicants are directed to visit www.smi.com.ph and apply online. Personnel and application letter may also be sent to humanresources@smi.com.ph. Closing date is 30 March 2011.

Höegh Fleet Services Phils., Inc.

We put PEOPLE First!!!

Don't be just another employee or just another company.
Enjoy being treated as a person first at HFSI!

For RORO / PCTC Vessels URGENTLY NEEDS:

Chief Engineers / Chief Cooks / Electricians

- Full Filipino complement
- MII and MA Model Agreement (CBA)
- Company allowances
- Health insurance (HMO) for officers and family
- FREE Pre-Employment Medical Examination
- FREE training re-issue, transportation and accommodation
- Company sponsored conferences, seminars and family cruises
- Optional COD or PHP payment of allotment
- Monthly "Höegh's Payment Perfect" special incentives
- Career development plans and good possibility for promotion
- Workable/Good meals - WORLDWIDE
- Other company benefits

For Office Staff (Shore based)

Crewing Officer-Recruitment & Training

- With academic degree in any four year course
- With at least 1 year relevant work experience in shipping/ manning company
- Computer literate (highly proficient in MS Office)
- Agile and can work under pressure
- Honest, disciplined, organized, detail oriented, has a positive outlook and can work with minimum supervision
- With good interpersonal and communication skills
- Willing to work ASAP

Accountant

- With academic degree in Accountancy
- Male / Female preferably between 21 - 30 years old
- Preferably with at least 1 year experience in accounts Payable using Automated Accounting System
- Computer literate (highly proficient in MS Office)
- With excellent interpersonal, communication and analytical skills
- Honest, disciplined, organized, detail oriented, has a positive outlook and can work with minimum supervision
- Willing to work ASAP

We offer competitive salary & benefit package, professional environment with continuous training & development

E-mail us with your comprehensive resume and 1x1 photo at: hfsi@hoegh.com or hfsi.crewing@hoegh.com
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INFOTECH

Greener, healthier alternatives

By Eugene Araneta

LG ELECTRONICS is now proactively addressing the growing concerns over health and environmental issues and rising electricity cost by unveiling products and technologies that are environment-friendly and beneficial to human health.

As part of its Eternal-health + Campaign, LG launched its latest and unique core technologies such as High Efficiency Inverter, Inverter Direct Drive, and the inverter Linear Compressor Technologies that can be found in a range of new product units.

LG officials said these technologies would turn people's home environment into something healthier, while reducing electricity costs.

For example, the High Efficiency Inverter Technology in LG's new Inverter V split type air-conditioning units allows consumers to enjoy comfortable and healthful cooling as the technology enables fast cooling of a room using less energy for 68 percent energy savings, compared to room inverter model.

The new LG air conditioning units are also quiet as they have the world's lowest noise level for a device at only 19 decibels and they also have the ability to filter molds, virus and allergens for cleaner air.

The High Efficiency Inverter Technology is available on a number of LG split type air conditioner units, which include the 1 hp (10-HSV2 (SRV 3516, 995), the 1.5 hp (15-12HG (SRP 5410.995), the 2 hp (20-18HV2 (SRP 9731, 995), and the 2.5 hp (25-24HV2 (SRP 958, 995).

The Inverter Direct Drive Technology is found in LG's latest washing machines. The technology allows for less wear and tear of inverter motors as the motor detaches the drum without a pulley and belt. Furthermore, this technology was noise less, as is just 54 decibels and reduces energy consumption by up to 20 percent. Water use has also been decreased by up to 45 percent compared to taken machines to its time.

LG Inverter Direct Drive Washer with 6 Motion

LG shows confidence in its Inverter Direct Drive technology by offering a 10-year warranty for the product.

The Inverter Linear Compressor Technology in LG's latest range of refrigerators will serve to ensure consumers that, even still reduced energy consumption, food will always stay fresh.

The Inverter Linear Compressor technology is available on three models, GR-B207WLW (SRP 394, 995), GR-J207WLW (SRP 9119, 995), and GR-P207VDH (SRP 9196, 995).

Ericsson takes virtual cash services for real

By Corrie Salamera-Mariano

MOBILE PAYMENTS and person-to-person money transfers will soon become commonplace in many countries, and Sweden's Ericsson has taken the lead in establishing a global mobile money ecosystem by coming out with a suite of mobile money services.

Although money transfer via mobile phones is not an entirely new idea—it is already being done here in the Philippines—Ericsson's Money Services promises to make the process more convenient and efficient, faster, cheaper and global in nature.

The company held a demonstration of its new business line that offers mobile financial services at the Ericsson hall during the Mobile World Congress that ended on Feb. 17.

A company official remembered a certain amount of money in a Globe number to the Philippines, where it was stored and converted from euros to peso in an instant.

"What we have here is a service that allows people to send or receive money instantly, wherever they are, whenever they want or need to," said Ericsson Money Services head Stefan Mahjoub.

Vinnet Economics doesn't said Globe Telecom are already doing it. They have deployed their own systems. What we wish to do here is to connect their systems into our network and they will be automatically connected with all the other systems in the world that are able to use network," Mahjoub said in an interview in Barcelona.

Ericsson's Money Services spares operators, or the telcos, from the tedious process of going to and investing, dealing with each and every prospective partner.

Mobile operators, financial institutions and other service providers wishing to extend their offerings only need to be integrated to the Ericsson Money Services to get connected to a real-time, cross-border cross-currency switching network," the company said in a statement.

"We are also making sure services can talk to each other so that if you lose service in Europe, for instance, you will still be able to talk to other services in the US or wherever. That is the idea [behind] this interconnection network," Mahjoub said.

Ericsson Money Services offers end-to-end solutions that can be tailored to fit different market conditions, needs and regulations.

This means that, in the case of the Philippines, the money sent through the system can be withdrawn or used through the G-Cash systems of Globe or that of Smart Money. For G-cash, for instance, the money can be withdrawn from their Globe kiosks or used for shopping in accredited merchant-diners.

But that doesn't stop there. Mahjoub said that with the infrastructure in place, the opportunities of finding new users and applications in the future abound.

"This is just the starting point, and those are the services we have today. But because we are moving into the mobile service evolution, we can create many more services using the system," Mahjoub said.

While the market for this service in the Philippines is already decided matter, many other markets around the world have yet to be introduced to this system.

"It now matters to opening up rendering of consumers whose first meeting with banks will take place over a mobile phone. People who may have never been to banks now have the opportunity to 'walk' into a virtual bank using their phones," Mahjoub said in an interview.

"Mobile payments and person-to-person money transfers are forecasted to become some of the most used mobile applications in many countries in the next two to three years. Mobile money will become the foundation for machine-to-machine and machine-to-machine connections by 2010, when Ericsson envisions a world with more than 50 billion connected devices," the company said in a statement.

The launch of the new business in Barcelona followed nine years of preparation and pilot testing of the concept in six European countries.

Cybercriminals prey on the uninformed

By Thereza S. Sumaraga

PATCHOGUE, N.Y.—Dude, the world has now moved on via where almost any undertaking is a tool in the Internet.

While computer software and systems have increasingly become more intelligent and sophisticated over the years, cybercrimes, too, have alarmingly evolved as well, threatening to wreak billions of dollars worldwide.

Trend Micro senior threat researcher Kurt Villeneuve reveals that cybercriminal groups have begun organizing themselves and forming alliances to execute perhaps, cybercrimes of a much larger scale compared to what they can achieve on their own.

According to Villeneuve, these previously independent cybercrime groups have joined forces to leverage and harness each other's strengths and skills in unleashing threats on the Web for bigger financial gains among the more notable partnerships included Storm-Spyfyre, Stegma-Stealthless and Koobface-Bredolab.

"These are infamous names of hoaxers by researchers in the cybercriminal underworld. When they join forces, they could be even stronger and much more malicious in their plans," Villeneuve says.

Netizens can easily fall prey to these cybercriminals, as these unfortunately happens even as more portable what they think are common and otherwise harmless online activities. These crimes include credential theft, pay-per-install and pay-per-click, which involve the installation of fake antivirus software.

Global antivirus firm Trend Micro explains that credential theft refers to the act of stealing real credentials, credit card numbers, and other sensitive or personal information from unknowing users; the use of money mules; and junk mules, and the packaging of products for resale within the underground.

Meanwhile, pay-per-install refers to a scheme in which last malware users incurs whenever Internet users install software supplied by an affiliate, while pay-per-click refers how hoaxers earn income whenever Internet users click on advertising links supplied by an affiliate. Click fraud is also possible via search engines and social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter, the company adds.

More alarmingly, Villeneuve adds, cybercrimes are now becoming highly evolved to delve into something far more serious such as espionage.

"It just shows that there is always a market for sensitive information. There's a trend where the information-gathering efforts by criminals are targeting high-profile entities rather than going on mass," he explained.

"With the sudden prevalence of these new cybercrime partnerships, we are these threats happening the world over, and even the Philippines is no exempt from being affected," Villeneuve further says.

According to the Trend Micro expert, because the Philippines has a strong Facebook community of over 22 million Filipinos, the country is definitely vulnerable to social networking threats. Organized cybercrime groups can zero in on the Filipinos' shared curiosity and lure for the bite.

"Their targets don't know that by clicking on numerous big link to a supposed news story they've actually given away themselves to cybercrime," Villeneuve explains.

VILLENEUVE

"The default lifeblood of cybercrime is theft, and the Philippines is an emerging market when it comes to online banking and purchasing. With the boom of BPO (business process outsourcing) and medical tourism, cybercrime is sure to follow the monetary breadcrumbs here," he adds.

For its part, Trend Micro says its security has been working relentlessly to provide the best security solutions that cybercrimes remain safe from these criminals and are supported when these attacks are underway.

According to Villeneuve, the security industry has mounted efforts to be ahead in step of these cybercriminals and ensures that the Internet remains safe for use.

He stresses, however, that concerted efforts in legislation are necessary to ensure that people are protected from cyber attacks and that law enforcers and the legal system could capture and prosecute cybercriminals across national borders.

Value for Vaio

By Raquel P. Santos

LOEWE, LAPTOP makers have become more creative in marketing their products to encourage sales of a device that is now considered a necessary tool for work, study and leisure.

Laptops are being endorsed by actors and...and by pets, by models—have graced fashion runways.

This time, Sony has upped the ante for laptop marketing by having its new line of laptops displayed in the halls of the Ayala Museum.

The event was called The Art of VAIO, where "refreshed" and new Sony VAIOs were placed on top of mini pedestals like an art piece or sculpture that could be viewed and appreciated from a distance.

Just like an art piece, "VAIO is not just a laptop, but an instrument for its users," according to Ning Yap of VAIO marketing and IT sales.

He says the VAIO brand speaks of premium quality as technology painstakingly crafted by Japanese engineers, who have the passion of artists to come out with a design that features "the perfect balance between elegance and substance."

Notable among the new VAIO laptops, which are part of Sony's "spring refreshers," are devices belonging to the C series, or mid-specification laptops, that feature bright neon orange and green colors.

The laptops' attractive illuminating charm is made possible by the incorporation of light emitting materials—an innovative design technology.

The new 14-inch VAIO C laptop is a high-performance notebook, powered by Intel Core i5 processor and a dynamic hybrid graphics system that switches automatically between the internal and external graphics chip, depending on the usage.

VAIO C's bright and vivid colors reflect the happy and energetic feeling that it gives to its users, says its product manager.

The 11.6-inch VAIO Y series is an affordable full-featured laptop that sells for only P39,999. It comes without an optical drive. It has the design and looks of VAIO's previous S series, but only smaller and at a lighter scale.

It has a sleek and tapered look, and only weighs less than 1.3 kg. Its battery life can last up to 8 hours.

Though small, the VAIO Y features a comfortable isolated keyboard complemented by an intuitive touchpad.

Specs are also noteworthy as the laptop is powered by an AMD Dual-Core Processor L-310 with AMD Radeon HD 4250 Discrete.

VAIO C Series in various shades

VAIO Y Series

The diverse can deliver an incredible visual and sound HD experience, including outstanding playback of full HD video and faster Internet operations.

VAIO Y, which is not a netbook, is available in silver, pink and green.

Though a little bit late in the market, the New VAIO laptop with 3D capability was finally released by Sony.

The new VAIO F series brings a 16-inch full HD+ display capable of delivering rich and vivid 3D images with flawless stereo.

The homegrown-looking laptop is powered by Intel Core i7 Quad-core processor and NVIDIA GeForce GT 340M GPU.

Sony also fitted this laptop with Sharm technology that has a more economical method with LED backlit control.

Similar to other 3D laptops out there, the VAIO F comes bundled with a pair of active shutter glasses that feature an improved passive polarized screen to ensure sharper and brighter images in fast to-motion time and while viewing angles.

The VAIO F 3D laptop retails for P149,000, while the new VAIO C series goes for P69,999.

BUSINESS Monday

Business/Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

SUZANNE Lu Bascara of EPI Global oversees a copywriting job.

6%+ Interest Rate

BPOs pump in no less than P34M a month into the economy of Dumaguete City and Negros Oriental

Small city hits big league in BPO trade

Text and photos by Alan V. Pal
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—With only five taxicabs around, you'd be lucky to catch one in Dumaguete City.

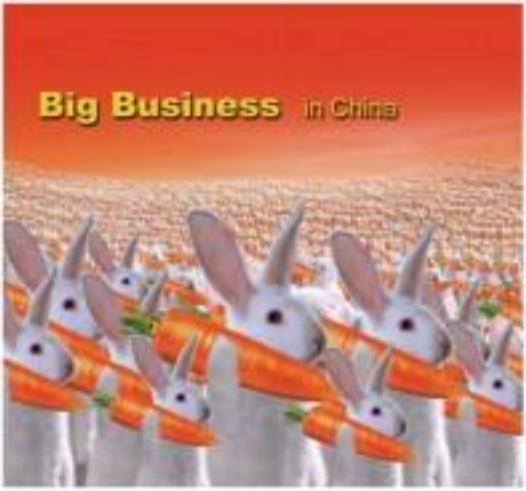
Here, people go places in a tricycle, which motorcycles rule the road. For a city measuring 15 square kilometers, this small place, by any standard, still grinds on a halt at noon time to allow everyone to go home for lunch.

"I didn't believe it at first when they said that in Dumaguete, everything is 10 minutes away. But I found out I'm myself that it's true," says Leonel Joseph "LJ" Uring, senior operations manager of EPI-ODM, a business process outsourcing company that had set up shop here in 2009.

"When they say a place is far, it's usually near. A 10-minute drive could take you to the next town," according to Uring who hails from Manila.

Dumaguete's smallness is its main charm. On a typical afternoon, one can

SPREAD B2-3



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THE PLAZA Phase one of the main attraction of Plazuela de Iloilo, a landscaped park for leisurely strolls.

An architectural g

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—Benigno media tycoon Angelito Flores is not known to shirk from challenges and threats.

In the dying years of the Marcos dictatorship, Flores's radio network—Radio Mindanao Network (RMN)—was one of the regime's most outspoken propaganda machines and delivered Independence Day broadcasts especially during the Edsa People Power revolt.

In 1989, suspected communist rebels kidnapped and held Flores for the reunification of Iloilo as Dinalerad for 72 days.

Now 71, Flores has new obsessed signs of showing down.

As head of the Flores Group of Companies, he has renewed and strengthened his business empire through the years. The group has interests in broadcast media (Radio Veritas, banking, Rizal Bank), real estate (Flores Land) and Flores Properties Management), agribusiness, and the pawnshop and jewelry trade (R. Flores Pawnshop and Jewelry).

Flores recently added Plazuela de Iloilo—Iloilo City's newest business and recreation center and architectural landmark—to his investment map.

Situated on Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. Ave., beside SM City Iloilo, the four-storey commercial and entertainment strip offers the amenities of a modern business complex and a tourist alliance superb ance.

Plazuela boasts of a total land area of 20,977 square meters including the 4,500-square-meter Plaza Mayor—an open area with restaurants on both ends.

The plaza is an ideal place for people to stroll, feature and shows like conventions, bazaars and concerts may also be held there.

There are more buildings with spacious Italian inspired designs are scattered a

When good governance turns bad

By Emerald O. Rio

THE INCIDENCE of failed investment during the Asian currency crisis in the late nineties, and the more recent financial backdown which questioned even the avaricious of Wall Street, have initiated the spotlight on the manner business enterprises are governed.

In no time, the issue of Good Governance (GG) became the buzzword in business organizations up to the present.

Whatever really happened to corporate governance in its more basic "pedestrian" relevance? Where lies all the "quality decision-making" gone? How was governance understood and enhanced then? Where did it fall short?

According to Amy L. Bechtold, US ambassador to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, governance is "the manner in which the shareholders, the board of directors, the management and other stakeholders relate to each other in order to set and regularly objectives and determine the means of attaining them."

Virtuous decision-making

It is indeed a relationship among partners-players in investment management, employees, banks, suppliers of capital as much as possible, "the interest of individuals, of corporations and of society towards achieving a balance between economic and social ends," according to Sir Adrian Cadbury.

What makes for good GG is the impression for "virtuous decision-making," from which comes the right corporate policies and on to ethical action plans and programs.

But the operational realities of GG takes a much deeper structural dimension. It is where the people factor comes the scene. The real challenge lies in the up, area implementation to is found-ed, applied and pursued in the spirit of honest stewardship? Or is it but a rinsheserve to conceive and understand the intricacies of a rather new business opportunities? ...

Because of the fluidity of the human factor, controls and performance standards in business environments are not established.

These control standards are there to enforce good governance to prevent bonuses, plans, and checks-n-balance acceptance goals in pursuance of the fullest business interests.

Collusion, at misplaced interest or responsible levels, if not countenance among accountable officials for business can surely consider inefficient every stakeholder control structure and thereby facilitate fraud.

An underlying values system embedded in the leaders' psyche, and strong corporate culture may yet withstand the specter of collusion.

This brings us to the realm of behavioral economics, to an awareness of and commitment at the highest level to a code of ethics and moral responsibility which shall redefine the Corporate Culture, or the way of doing things...and accordingly evaluate the performance measures as tools in good governance.

Corporate culture

GG, which shapes corporate culture, is in itself shaped by the behavior of corporate leaders. Leaders are typically tasked up to the young as models, ultimately is shaping corporate conduct.

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Antonio L. Hernandez

In the end, it is the leaders' mission that will guarantee commitment to, and set the tone of, GG, their mission expectations, Corporate limits and controls, as framed in core time in Powers Magazine, must be fundamentally geared to "breakdowns in ethics, to corporate oversight, and to common sense."

The bigger and more fundamental question though is: "What precipitates the breakdown in business ethics, in corporate oversight and so, in common sense?"

Again, a focus on the many instances of failures by the great financial stories point to such main weaknesses as: neglect, ignorance and, the worst and luciferian is Greed—the heartbreaker acquisitive desire for wealth beyond measure.

Sadly, we hear "dull, listen! sad, wary journaling that "Greed is Good," that it is the "desire which gives life to and propels Capitalism."

Non-business writers would certainly not do well with such maxims of narrative that only leads to restructuring wrongful desire and, ultimately, to the corruption of the best. For the problem of corporate wealth accumulation is that it conflicts with values of greater humanitarian importance and thus breaks the principle of stewardship.

Disarray

Overdrafts, the subtle abuse of power or prerogative brings the control systems into disarray. Soon, the concept of ethical stewardship evaporates, moral uncertainty is lost, managing gets even more complicated and anxiety and the corporate vision, which "articulates the needs of the business and its noble intention for the future," is consigned to oblivion.

Before long, good governance flows out and bad governance creeps in. The new gross collapse cannot be far behind. As an individual commitment gets it, what will determine the "Business Decision Principle: Fidelity without Morality; Pleasure without Conscience?"

Isn't it time to unlearn the lost and relearn the good?

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is management and development finance consultant, director, Management Information Inc., Ateneo Council for Continental Association of CPAs, former senior vice president, Land Bank of the Philippines, member - Management Association of the Philippines. Feedback at ecopinfo@info.com.ph. For previous articles, please visit www.mp.ph.)

What makes a Filip

WORKPLACE WISDOM

Characteristics

Employees points a leader who is easy to talk to, one who listens visits under-, unending and compassion, and someone who takes care of the employees' personal and professional welfare. The apt term for this is the vernacular is being "malasakit."

If the boss is "malasakit," employees will most likely feel more affirmation and warmth toward this superv-

on. The leader, by doing so, i able is to bring people to work to as a team and get more p results.

Also, emp prefer a leade like the "k being listened the company read portions surrounding thi not just abou

ing the workload. Know bet more of the capacity and ca edge and skills that will move ees toward personal and prof of growth.

Bosses who are percei "friendly critical and stimulati the other hand, are not desi

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em fit for a 'queen'

Tanson Spanish shirt—Asia, ...olino secretariat.

The buildings have a total floor space of 3,500 square meters. On the ground are stores for restoration, retail stores, and a food court. Suites and kiosks are on second floor. A third floor houses professional and BPO clients.

Marcelo de Bello has a spacious penthouse space that can accommodate over 1,000 and coffee bar passer lookup area, passer interruption through its private government.

Bello, a two-storey extension from the hotel, the complex will not be open to flooding, designers claim.

The Planades hotel to sell opposing bars and "near future" then, thousands of living and numerous have studied other ... architect to be architectural design and spacious open areas.

There now boast a bar, service shops, children's play center and popular restaurants serving seafood, Italian, Japanese and Thai cuisines.

Florens says the investment is his way of "giving back" to Iloilo and Boracay.

"Iloilo has been kind to my family and we want to build an edifice that Ilonggos can be proud of, one that does justice to this city," he says.

It was during a meeting with Ilonggo businessmen based in Manila four years ago that the seed of Plaridela was planted in Florens's mind.

"We agreed that we should help Iloilo regain its title as 'Queen City of the South' by tapping our resources and investing in businesses that will spur economic development and create more jobs and opportunities for our fellow Ilonggos," Florens says.

To this end, his family decided to develop part of their 10-hectare property on the Diversion road.

Design of Plaridela de Iloilo was in the hands of internationally renowned architect Felino "Jun" Palafox Jr. It took nearly two years to finalize the designs, having undergone several revisions due to the owner's meticulous attention to detail.

Florens said the architectural design was inspired by Iloilo's rich historical heritage as reflected in the Spanish and American colonial houses in the city.

Florens says his family's investment in the complex has been "substantial," but he adds that the building's character has more than made up for the cost.

"It would have been much cheaper to build a fast-like building and maximize space. But we want to leave something that will inspire and encourage more development in the generations," he said.

The investment also reflects Florens' optimism in Iloilo's economic growth.

The downtown area's commercial and neighborhood economic activity have also raised demand for more restaurants and business centers, he says.

Florens expects these developments to take place around Plaridela de Iloilo.

ino leader?

Filipino workers. Subordinates have the tendency to merely follow this type of leader because of the position, but will do so with anger and inside protest. This type of leadership can be destructive and ineffective for the organization.

Impact on performance

How, what do these characteristics mean in terms of job performance?

The study shows that being a leader who satisfies the above-listed characteristics will most likely have employees who are willing to do more work persistent that the leader takes time to engage in positive interaction with them.

Genuine leaders/Likeable managers positively affect employees' respect and loyalty to the boss. Workers may even go beyond the call of duty to support other employees and engage in behaviors that will promote the welfare of the organization.

They can be more than willing to help others who have been absent, or to adjust work schedules to accommodate other employees' requests for time off.

In terms of retention, employees who have good interpersonal relationships with their bosses tend to stay longer with the company. Some would even follow their bosses to other organizations if the leader decides to leave the current company.

Given the findings of this study, Pinoy leaders may find it important to know how they are perceived by their team and exert effort to develop characteristics that enhance positive working relationships with their followers. Simply to claim that a leader who is too fussy and unreasonable, but is willing, diligent who is competent and approachable, bring out the best in the Pinoy employee.

(The author is a graduate student of the Masters in Industrial Organizational Psychology program at the Ateneo de Manila University. The article is based on the dissertation of Roberto Elloval, CPAO, entitled is Social Organizational Psychology is the same university. For feedback about this article, please e-mail elovaco@dlsl.edu.ph or call us at 4288801 or 4266282.)

To successfully engage workers, follow golden rule

By Lily Bontogon-Alvarez
Contributor

LOW PROACTIVITY. Employees making no more mistakes. Submitting. Complaining. Absenteeism. Tardiness. Inattentive to instructions.

These are signs employers should watch out for, especially if they intend to retain talent and highly motivated employees.

When people cease to function as a team, or when they quit interacting with their managers and their co-workers, or show a "don't care" attitude, it is indicative of low employee engagement, writes Paul Harvey, in a web article titled, "The Rules of Engagement: How to Empower Employees for Their'll Extend Themselves." The article was published by Smart Business Network, a leading publisher of management journals in the United States.

Recognition

Harvey advises employers to follow-(and must we date) six "frameworks") the easy-simple philosophy behind the Golden Rule: treat people the way you would like to be treated.

"You know what makes you feel good, what makes you feel bad, and what makes you work," Harvey says.

Indeed, how employers can easily engage their employees, Harvey says the one thing that stands out is that employees want recognition more than money.

Recognizing and rewarding employees for work well done demonstrates management's care and concern for workers.

"They want to know that you see and appreciate what they do. People want to go home with a good feeling that their hard work accomplishments matter," he says.

In one motivational speaker has said: "Appreciation and recognition play the role glucose play in the nutrition of the human body."

Know your workers

In successful employee engagement, there are three things managers should know—the names and spellings of every employee, their skills and pay rate, and enough about them to start a conversation.

Managers should listen to their employees and let them know they have an interest in them. Sometimes we're so busy talking, we forget to listen. It is easy to have this interaction and it helps you the engagement your company needs to succeed," Harvey says.

The next building to empowered and engaged employees, Harvey suggests, is paying an inspiring boss whose employees earn money for getting a supportive.

Managers, supervisors and employees can meet each day with a huddle—talking about birthdays, anniversaries and the like. There each manager goes back as far as her group and it has been a huddle, or it would down," he says.

Tools they need

Harvey says beyond the little things, people need a sense of belonging.

"People do not the social connection or an outfit team. They should also be given the tools and skills they need to do their jobs effectively. Set tools such as computers. It's also important to change like good working conditions, training and mentoring, and a pleasant environment," he recommends. "If you go to bat for them and get them things, they're going to remember what when you ask them to do something which is not in their job description."

Small city hits ...

Pantagat B2-1

Find several of its big talent management building towards their favorite watering hole. There are many such establishments on Real Boulevard, which faces Dumaguete bay. There, the foreigners get their favorite fix: they have their back and watch the world go by.

Small wonder why not a few of BPO business clients have been heard to ask, "Why Dumaguete?" There are over 20,000 people there," recalls Susanne Lit-Sucaro, SPI Global executive director.

The anxiety is not totally misplaced. SPI Global, identified, is a leader player in the BPO industry in the country, with 11,000 employees, not to mention some 3,000 more in 24 locations in the United States, Europe, India and Vietnam.

The company's Dumaguete operation alone expanded from 333 full time employees in October 2009 to 1,300 employees in January 2011.

"We're now the biggest private employer in Negros Oriental, dating back since and provides services," Barrera says.

The company has made it a point to bring their foreign clients to Dumaguete to see the place, she adds.

"They see that, although the city is small, there is a ready manpower pool generated by the four universities and colleges here, which produces almost 4,000 graduates every year, in contrast to the 300,000 graduates throughout the country," Sucaro explains.

Dumaguete is also called a university town. It is home to Silliman University, founded by American missionaries in 1901. Now from the order of St. Paul de Chartres set foot on Dumaguete's shores in 1904 to establish the first campus of St. Paul University in the Philippines.

In 1949, a young teacher named Vicente E. Bless established what is now the renowned Foundation University, the first Filipino university. The Negros Oriental State University was founded in 2004.

For Liang, these universities and seven other colleges play an important part in providing them quality employees.

"We get most of it walk in every day, and we have a success rate of 50 to 60 percent. In contrast, we may get more applicants in Manila, but the success rate is only 10 percent," Liang says.

Yet, only its educational institutions provide the 4,000 workers for Dumaguete's thriving BPO industry, they have also turned an information communication technology (ICT) Council to maximize the ability of graduates with the demand of the companies in BPO sector.

The surrounding business is estimated to pump in no less than P4.6 million a month into the economy of Dumaguete City and Negros Oriental, and that figure is culled from workers' salaries alone. It does not count the side businesses that the employees support.

"Most any time, some business have been [in not in] boarding houses," Liang says. Several restaurants have also sprouted nearby.

Another thing Liang likes about Dumaguete is that workers don't tend to skip work even if they partied the night before.

"No-to-order Dumaguete had been ranked 40th on the list of 'most wired' cities in the Philippines last year," he says.

SPI Global started operations in Dumaguete with the merger of two companies, E-PLOT Source and GPI Technologies, in October 2008. The company's successor services include publishing and copy editing. It also has a call center that mostly handles the needs of Smart Communications Inc., its largest customer.

Barrera says that she and her co-workers are all proud of the quality of their work. Their work ethic sets them schools in 2000 taken the Black Book of Outsourcing cited SPI Global as one of the top outsourcing company in the world.

The distinction was based on a poll of about 800 respondents from the global publishing community.

Mary Chiten, SPI Global director for external affairs and corporate communications, says that the company will soon venture into the more lucrative KPO (Knowledge Process Outsourcing) market, offering content solutions, health care and client relationship management.

Also, Dumaguete will be the site of SPI Global's pioneering venture in the publishing and Oracle Revenue Management.

"Dumaguete is a showcase," Chiten explains. "We want the others to know that, in Dumaguete, we found a good place to grow and expand."

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MPIC joins CFA Phils for the Global Investment Research Challenge

Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC), the country's premiere management and investments company focusing on infrastructure, joined the Chartered Financial Analysts Society of the Philippines (CFA Phils) as this year's subject company for the Global Investment Research Challenge ("Global IRC").

MPIC, with president & CEO Jose Ma. K. Lim, chief finance officer David J. Nicol and vice president for Investor Relations Albert L. Pulido, conducted a series of meetings with the student groups for an in-depth presentation of the company's investment portfolio, corporate strategies and future direction.

"MPIC was chosen to be this year's subject for equity reporting because of its dynamic growth and performance in the infrastructure industry which agrees with the government's focus on infrastructure", said CFA Philippines president April Lee Tee. "It was also key that top management is willing to share relevant information to these students and make time for these sessions amidst their tight schedules".

The CFA Institute Global Investment Research Challenge offers students the unique opportunity to learn from leading industry experts and compete with peers from the world's top finance programs. This annual educational initiative promotes best practices in equity research among the next generation of analysts through hands-on mentoring and intensive training in company analysis and presentation skills.

Asiro del Castillo, managing director of brokerage firm First Grade Holdings commented, "It is a laudable undertaking for companies to be involved in leading future financial analysts their firsthand experiences relating to good corporate governance, management strategies and risk management".

The challenge gathers students, investment industry professionals, publicly traded companies, and corporate sponsors together locally, regionally, and globally for a real world competition. Participation in the challenge promotes best practices in equity research and company analysis, as students research, analyze, and report on a company as if they are practicing analysts.

The six university teams that vied for the spot as the country's representative are Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University-Manila, University of the Philippines-Diliman, University of the Philippines Visayas, University of Santo Tomas and Manuel S. Enverga University-Lucena City.

After defending their research reports on Metro Pacific Investments Corporation to a panel of judges composed of investment professionals, White Rock Investments of the University of the Philippines-Diliman emerged as the winner of the local IRC of CFA Philippines and advances to the next regional challenge now being held in Bali, Indonesia.

Metro Pacific Investments Corporation Salutes a New Breed of Analysts

White Rock Rules

Dubbed White Rock Investments, the University of the Philippines-Diliman tops the 3rd Local Investment Research Challenge "IRC" of the CFA Society of the Philippines and will represent the country at the Regional Research Challenge in Bali, Indonesia.

The IRC is a worldwide competition that aims to promote fundamental research analysis and a win by White Rock Investments would make them Asia's representative at the Global Challenge to be held in Omaha, Nebraska.

Metro Pacific Investments Corporation was the subject company and White Rock will be defending their equity analysis when they compete in Bali.

Well done and best of luck to
Diogenes Dy, Jaclyn Jimenez, Crissa Marie Bondad,
Chester Kevin Esteban and Carlos Yu Jr.!

CFA INSTITUTE GLOBAL INVESTMENT RESEARCH CHALLENGE

METRO PACIFIC INVESTMENTS

Immaculate Conception Academy
A Cut Above

ICA Alumnae, Parents and Students represent the Empowered Women

Spirit of thanksgiving marks

Jubilee year

By Marie D. Salazar

Exhibit of ICA Memorabilia

You know when a school has a positive impact to its students is when the latter return the favor by giving back to the community. Many alumnae of the Immaculate Conception Academy (Greenhills, San Juan) have made and are still making a difference in society today.

The opening celebration of ICA's Jubilee Year early this month gathered the best of the best students ICA has produced in all of its 75 years. The Delia Tecson de Asis and Sports Center was packed with past and present "proud ICAns."

His Eminence Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, Archbishop of Manila led the Eucharistic Celebration and gave a very inspiring and moving homily. He spoke of love, commitment and living a blessing to others. He acknowledged the contribution of ICA to society by way of teaching the students to become Catholics not only in words but also in deeds.

The Diamond Jubilee's theme is "Deepening the faith, Empowering women, Transforming lives" which clearly illustrates how the life in ICA is and was for the students and alumnae. The program following the Mass was hosted by Katherine Tantiangco (Batch '92) and Dr. Reginald Ang, the vice-chairman of the ICAGH Scholarship Foundation. The ICA choir was accompanied by the Metro Manila Concert Orchestra. The music and the girls' voices reverberate around the auditorium.

The audio-visual presentation featured ICA's beginnings. The spirit and air of thanksgiving is felt throughout the event and seen in the eyes of the attendees. ICA was founded at the request of Chinese Filipino parents to the MIC sisters to establish a school that teaches deep Catholic faith and quality education. The school overcame the war and changed several locations until it found its permanent home in Greenhills.

Excellence is clearly one of the many factors that propelled ICA in academic stardom. "Many of its alumnae have excelled in their fields of disciplines and they also excelled in extending help to others.

Leona Cabochanin, Class'o 2003, Summa Cum Laude in Bachelor of Fine Arts Major in Theatre Arts, Ateneo de Manila University, Batch 2008, Recipient of the Loyola Schools of the Arts, excellence of the Dismond Jubilee song, "Sa'Yo I Am (Because of You)," won skills to everyone and some were even teary-eyed. The song was written by Rainbin Esse (Batch 2010) with music by Alvarez Jr. (Batch 1982, a professional song writer). The message and the music blended as well and represented everything that it takes to be an ICAn.

Perhaps, one of the biggest highlights of the thanksgiving is the presentation of scholars of the ICAGH Scholarship Foundation. It sure how ICA shares its blessings and extending the quality of education to the school' impacts. The foundation aims to assist deserving students who cannot pursue their studies in ICA.

The most touching was probably the presentation of the book "A Cut Above," which features 60 ICAns who touched other people's lives. These are those who dedicate their lives in being a blessing to others by involving in outreach programs, setting up foundation, and advocating causes.

ICAAA president Billie Ching-Yifing presented a copy of the book "A Cut Above" to Fr. Dino Ang, ICA School Directress. In presenting the book to Sr. Dino Ang, Billie Ching-Yifing states that "the objectives of the ICA Alumnae Association is to continue and reinforce the formation that the school instituted. And true to the ideals of our beloved ICA, the seeds that were planted have borne much fruit: many ICA students and alumnae have made significant although some quiet and unpublicized contributions to society in their profession, vocation, mission, and in faith."

After the march of the "empowered women" composed of the alumnae, parents, students, faculty and staff, the ICAns and their families concluded ICA's Diamond Jubilee Year with the blessing of the Statues/ Plaques of the ICAGH Scholarship Foundation. There will be more activities to look forward to this year marking a year-long celebration and thanksgiving.

And there is one sentiment that many ICAns share and that is "Proud to be an ICAn!"

Remembering and Thanking ICA's 75 Years of Grace

"All things work together for the good of those that love the Lord and are called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28)

Brief History of ICA

After having to leave China unexpectedly because of political turmoil, the MIC sisters arrived on the shores of the Philippines in 1935 upon the invitation of Dr. Jose Trebuchet, director of Chinese General Hospital. From Montreal, Canada, Sr. Marie du Saint-Esprit (Mother Delia Tetreault) guided her five missionary daughters through her prayers. They began by assisting in the hospital and in Training School for Nurses, resulting in establishing friendly ties with the Chinese patients. These Chinese families then requested the MIC sisters to open a school so that their children, who have been baptized in the Catholic Church, could be followed up in the living out of their faith.

This year, that school that began in a room above a hardware store in Binondo in 1936 celebrates its 75th anniversary. After moving from place to place to accommodate the ever-growing student population, it finally settled into its current campus in Greenhills.

Spirit of Thanksgiving

The 75th year anniversary celebration is centered on the spirit of thanksgiving. Thinking back on how the school has evolved, our overwhelming sentiment is wordless gratitude. Indeed, these is 75 years' worth to be thankful for! We praise God for all the blessings and even the obstacles that have only served to make the school better. This milestone is the ideal opportunity to convey heartfelt appreciation to all who have supported ICA: the Heidi Mother Delia Tetreault and the MIC sisters, God's instruments who set His plan in motion, and who continues to guide its progress today. We thank the parents for entrusting their children to our care and for being our partners in the continual improvement of the school. We thank the alumnae for being a positive force in society at large; they are ICA's very own ambassadors-at-large, testimony of the education they have received. We thank the generations of teachers and staff, truly the lifeblood of the school; without them, there would only be buildings. We thank our benefactors whose unstinting generosity has allowed us to expand our horizons time and again. The solid foundation provided by this formidable community of supporters allows us to look forward with hope and anticipation.

Aerial view of ICA

Groundbreaking of ICA-Greenhills 1959

Diamond Jubilee Theme

The theme of this year's celebrations – "Deepening the faith, empowering women, transforming lives" – encapsulates the goals that ICA has strived to fulfill since its creation. The school was originally established in response to the earnest request of Filipino-Chinese parents to the MIC sisters to provide a place where their children could learn about and grow in the Catholic faith. The education that ICA seeks to impart to each student is one which will allow her to pursue and excel in whatever field she chooses, to realize her full potential, and to live a productive life of purpose and service. In the end, it is not only her life that is transformed but also the lives of those around her – her family, her community, and her country.

Pilgrimage to the MIC Mother House

A major project of the ICA Alumnae Association is a trip to the MIC Mother House in Montreal, Canada on May 22 - 28, 2011. The objective of this visit is to familiarize ICAns with the MIC spirituality. What better way than to visit the place where it all started? The 3-day course will include a visit to the Mother House, enjoy the convent in Pont Viau and a half-day recollection on the spirituality of our founders, Mother Delia Tetreault.

Batch 79 (L-R) Juliet Go, Yvette Lee, Czennie Le-Manzi

ICAAA Officers with Vice Mayor Francisco Zamora, Sr. Raymund Arg, Sr. Teresita Castrill, Mayor Gaia Gorrao, Manila Archbishop Cardenal Cardinal Rosales, and Sr. Dimaling

Batch 77 - (Front L-R) Annabel Bragoco, Christie Que, Maisie Que, Sandee Yam, Billie Syling, Lucie Sy, Julie Go (Back L-R) Marissa Yang, Evelyn Lee, Lieanne Ling, Evelyn Uy, Diana Fang, Abet Go, Rico Chang, Jackie Tang

(Seated L-R) Mona de Jesus-Go, Ching Tan-Chua, Wilma Sy-Yee, Virgie Tan-Aquilera (Standing L-R) Regina Tanco-Gonzales, Jhoon Somiya, Carolyn Tan-Lim, Eddie Lim

Dr. Aleanna Tan

ICAAA-Officers (L-R) Katherine Tandiarao, Hilmar Sun, Esther Dobbs-Ang, Billie Ching-Syling, Rose Evelyn Oh-Julie Tan-Sy, Julie Yang-Go, Elaine Mar-Cendo, Lolicia Tan-Chua. Not in photo: Nicole Sun and Mae Cruz Chan-Chua

Batch 81 (L-R) Mary Jane Fe Aguirre-Adamos, Christina Lim, Catherine Su, Irene Ong-Kee-Lin, Mrs. Nieto Sy, Caroline Yap-Su, Soonay Chua-Ya, Peggy Ann Limpe-Uy, Maryknoll Sy-Uy

Class of 1971

Batch 86 (L-R) Estelle Collargos-Sy, Cherry Lee-Liao, Evelyn Salmorana-Cochanco, Debbie Fe-Sy, Janet Lim-Ching, Elisa de Guzman-Piguero

Sr. Bernardita, Dr. Lydia Echauz, Nina Consunji, Jorge Consunji

Josephine Dorjuman-Yap, Debbie, Carlos,& Carl Benedict Chong, Judy Ong-Sia

Mayor Gela Gonzaga, Sr. Teresita Casirel, Sr. Dina Ang, His Eminence Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, Fr. Cesar Muñoz (Standing from left) - Miss Nina, Sr. Raymond Ang, Manalo San, Hanenon Ibasco, Fr. Johnny Go, Antoon Uy, Junior Uy, Patty Aldanas, Queenie Chua

Sr. Teresita Casirel, Katherine Lim-Tan, Sr. Dina Ang, Andrea Kara Tan

Batch 82 (L-R) Rosanna Tia Laurel De Guzman, Mary Cheng-Go, Julie and Kathjel Anne Tan-Sy, Eunice Chua-Reyes

Batch 70 (Standing L-R) Anita Ongagna-Aurelio, Helen Wong, Ann Tuvera-Lim (Seated L-R) Catherine Ng-Chua, Belen Lim-Manapat, Carolina Tanes-Hsieng

'A CUT ABOVE'

Essays that inspire others

The gratitude of being able to study in a school that breeds greatness and be a blessing to others is captured in the book "A Cut Above." The ICA Alumnae Association, as part of its contribution to the school's 75th anniversary, publishes a coffee-table book that walks people through the lives of 60 ICAns who truly made a difference in the society.

The compilation of essays will inspire and make each ICAn proud to become part of this school. "It features scholastic and groups who best personify the vision of its founders, Mother Delia Tancoult," before fulfilling their advocacies and missions. "ICA alumnae braved physical, emotional, financial, and spiritual trials in their lives." Some of them chose to live in far-flung areas to be able to help others. Others put up their own foundation to advance medical missions and help patients cope with sickness. They not only provide financial help but moral support as well. Some have excelled in the field of arts and academics that truly made ICA family proud.

The alumnae are more than thankful for everything that they have become for being an ICAn.

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Editor Thelma Simone San Juan Arts and Books Editor Lito B. Zulueta

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

The art of Betsy Westendorp at home in Davao

By Cid Reyes
Contributor

EVEN IN old age, that great 19th-century French painter Cezanne admitted in his many letters to what extent he had been in thrall to nature.

THEART C2

Alliance Française mounts Vitalis retrospective

By Dhilo Galvante Tiopi
Contributor

A YOUNG man stopped down the train at the Gare du Nord in Paris. It was Aug. 5, 1920, and as seven in the evening, the summer light was still bright and pleasant.

The young man, Maurice Thiolis, probably took a deep breath and strode toward a life of new adventures in France.

Fifty-three years later, I met Vitalis, now a fairly old man, in his stone-cottage in Montes-les-Cabres, a picturesque town in Drôme.

My husband Omar and I would spend our summer vacations in the region and decided to look Vitalis up and make his acquaintance.

As he opened the door, he had this quizzical look of someone whose quiet life was be-

ALLIANCE C2

The art of Betsy Westendorp at home in Davao

From page C1

In a fellow artist, he confided: "My absorption in my work and my advanced age will explain sufficiently my delay in answering your letter... I am progressing very slowly for no new reveals herself to me in very complex forms, and the progress needed is incessant... Time is the best judge. It is sure..."

And in his son Paul, Gustave sensed his joy while painting: "Finally I must tell you that as a painter I am becoming more clear-sighted in front of nature... How on the edge of the river, the world is not very plentiful... I must carry on. I simply must produce after nature..."

To be sure, the Spanish-artist Betsy Westendorp is no stranger to the hypnotic allure of nature. She has been painting nearly as long as many have for decades, indeed since she first arrived in the country in 1911 as the young bride of Tony Brias, a Filipino-Spanish businessman she met in Madrid. The artist first gained recognition as a married person while distinguished by her mother's skill in capturing not only the likeness but the soul, of her subjects, coming from distinguished families and even Spanish royalty. Westendorp recounts elegant ladies in their softly flowing gowns with an ethereal quality, as though the figures have emerged from a source of luminosity. The gentlemen all bear a lordly stature,

THE ARTIST is no stranger to the hypnotic allure of nature.

an impress of dignity exuding from a physical dominance.

Enriching as portrait painting may be, nothing can match the bliss of capturing the many faces of nature. Aligned to the vision of the Impressionists, Westendorp found her own individuality through a visual fusion germinated by a romantic impetus.

Natural Eden

Westendorp's nature paintings correspond with the verdant setting of Davao, which is inarguably a veritable temple to flora. The place is a natural fabric for a breathtaking variety of orchids, which is among Westendorp's favored subjects. That it makes Davao a most

fetching destination for the art of Westendorp. Away from the choking pollution and the frenzied energy of Metro Manila, Westendorp's paintings can finally learn a sigh of relief. Truly, Davao is a breath of fresh air.

This exhibition is spearheaded by Westendorp's nephew, who, by felicitous happenstance, bears the same name as her late husband. Tony Brias of Davao is the moving force behind a support group whose advocacy is the well-being of the city's children with Down Syndrome.

For Westendorp, the magic of art making—the process of transforming the stimulus of nature into a work of art—must perforce start with the physical space of canvas or paper. While remaining two-dimensional, these spaces must eventually evoke the three-dimensionality of reality... perceived by the eye, filtered through the intellect, and scanned by emotion. That segmented space then becomes the vessel for the disseminator of light, droplets, odors, or golden, cottony or rosy the atmosphere envelopes the forthcoming bloom and bouquet of flowers, the voluptuous clouds, or the still sea dappled by the russet orange of a fading sun in the last embodiment of its day. For such are the images that captivate the eye and spirit of Westendorp. In them, the obvious delight of the artist is palpable. Beloved nature and artist meet in mutual adoration.

Westendorp's voluptuous bouquets of flowers are always caught in a state of dauntless stillness and tension. Plump with multi-hued petals, ripping to go riotous but reined in by a sturdy and formal composition, they assume their rightful place in the natural setting. In Westendorp's great variety of flower paintings, the viewer literally has a pick of his choice colors: reds, pinks, yellows, white, tangerine, mauves, salmons, purples.

Energized freshness

They are not in fact floral still lifes; instead, not floral bouquets held captive by a bowl, vase or urn. Westendorp pastes on simple them on one wall, where they actually blossom conspicuously. The artist's lively strokes demonstrate an energized freshness even as flowers and foliage melt up within, or spill out of, the pictorial frame. Westendorp continues the rich tradition of European flower painting which peaked in France in the 19th century in the works of Claude Monet, Auguste Renoir, Henri Fantin-Latour, Edgar Degas, Edouard Manet, Gustave Courbet, and

for the Masters. Even earlier, in the 17th century in the Netherlands, were the great floral painters, among which was the female artist Rachel Ruysch. Recall that Westendorp was named after her grandmother, Betsy Westendorp-Church, a Dutch painter. Indeed, the publication of flower painting blew across centuries and generations.

Veering toward abstraction are Westendorp's paintings of mountains and shorelines. While her landscapes are inspired by such specific places as Tagaytay or Batangas, her esteem, though often subverting to Manila Bay (mirrored locale and diffuses into the saturated blues), advised artists: "Paint it just as it looks to you, the exact color and shape, until it gives your own impression of the scene before you."

Photorealism, however, implies on accurateness, as the painting impels her to do, rather than mimic an exact duplicate of a scene. Thus, the paintings look more empty rendered. For instance, a ray of light bursting through grey clouds may lend the scene of a lonely silver gilt. A painting is to own self-contained universe.

It is tantalizing to imagine what future visual splendors will emanate after a visit to Davao. This journalist misses her friend to artist in Betsy Westendorp.

'Little Treasures,' a tapestry of small works, opens at Podium

BRILLIANT PAINTER Vincent Van Gogh once said that great things are done by a series of small things brought together. Curator Joaquin Podium, revels in this concept by presenting the smaller works of the top contemporary painters in the Philippines.

With all the works on display no larger than 10 inches, the exhibition invites the public to admire the unique brush-work of eminent painters.

Featuring works from recognized artists such as Jose-el Santos, Mario Parial and Lydia Velasco as well as up-and-coming artists such as Joven Bonzon, Poy Gallaelgo, Karina Balcazar and Rodolfo Bacajalla, "Little Treasures" brings different atmospheres, temperaments, and styles together to achieve a symphony of works.

Each artist contributes his or her own unique perspective and technique to a final tapestry that can engage the public in many ways.

Poy Gallaelgo, for instance, demonstrates that the smaller dimensions perfectly highlight his textured images of dreamy-eyed women in his forget-me-not collection.

Joven Bonzon takes the opportunity to engage in portraits reminiscent of her larger works through a 16 x 16 inch oil on canvas piece titled, "The Fish Vendor."

The highly regarded Lydia Velasco takes a similar approach in her "Feminine Portrait" series done in watercolor. Though her independent of the feminine form of her subjects lacks a softer edge.

Jovenal Sunio displays his eye for landscapes in "A Perspective of Wonder," and Bobi is still like such as "A Street Lined Trees," capturing his experience in Europe as a designer for top brands such as Balenciaga. Mario Parial exhibits still lifes of fruit using acrylic on paper in "Basi at Pulang Watermelon," evidence of the diverse palette he is known for.

Also on display are his bright portraiture in works such as "A Mother's Embrace," recalling illuminated manuscripts of yore.

Galerie Joaquin Podium is at Unit B12-B13, L/G2, The Podium, 688 Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong. Call 6347954 or visit www.galeriejoaquin.com

"PORTRAIT of Mel L" by Lydia Velasco

"MOTION"

"FLOWER Pot"

Alliance Française . . .

From page C1

ing disturbed by road strangers. He wore a black beret, his trademark, that must have known decades of use. He had paint-stained shirt sleeves and dark baggy woolen pants. As his eyes fell on me, the sight of a fellow Asian must have made him leave his guard. That was the start of a long friendship that lasted until his death.

Vitalis was hardly loquacious and I hoped he wasn't impatient with me when I tried to get information about his long and rich life.

He slept in our VIP couch when he came to Davao, the couch on which many Pinoy greats like Arpo, BenCab, Albet, Anthoni Dimanpo, Benji Nuyen, Boy Morales, had slept on, also. Vitalis loved to go to our Bajau-weaving town market and whipped out a feast for us.

I discovered later that since 1937 he had worked with Camille Bernardi, an art patron, who also owned a restaurant in Dinard in the northern suburb of Paris. It was in Bernardi's Big Boy restaurant that Vitalis met artists like Picasso, Serge Poliakoff and Jacques Villon.

Villon (pseudonym of Gaston Emile Duchamp, elder brother of Marcel Duchamp) had founded the Group of Puteaux where artists and intellectuals gathered and birthed some of the isms in modern art. Vitalis must have absorbed much from this nurturing art atmosphere.

The Alliance Française de Manille presents a two-ensemble of Vitalis works, both paintings and drawings, drawn from this Indochinese period. Philippine connoisseurs are familiar with his landscapes, portraits or still-life works all done in the pointillist style.

The earliest work in the Vitalis exhibit is a pastel drawing of a vase of flowers executed with much delicacy and gaiety. There are large, vibrant and primitive canvasses of the later period, as the show steps as his works of 1965.

It was not easy assembling this exhibit as Vitalis works had to be patiently sought out in the flea markets or at auctions. The bulk of the show, however, came from the estate of Camille Bernardi, whose heirs dispersed of his huge collection at an different auctions.

I remember every time we would come home with a Vitalis treasure from an auction, he would always ask me: I have purchased my own archives of drawings?

As it turned out, carefully kept by Bernardi were drawings of landscapes, buildings and monuments in France which must have been his bread-and-butter in his early struggling years.

There, too, were drawing drawings of his life as a Indigo in Compiègne camp near the north of Paris, where he was interned along with the Allied civilian prisoners as they were "enemies" of the German occupation army.

For me, going through these Vitalis works is very touching as I share in the life he never expressed in words. For me it was, indeed, a

"THE QUEUE"

joy (hope to know both the man and the artist, I feel truly blessed).

Maestro Vitalis was born in Lapog, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur on March 8, 1898. He died in Bajaoc (28), Ilocos S, 1989.

"Homage Vitalis" opens with reception 6:30 p.m. on March 1, at the Focal Gallery of the Alliance Française de Manille.

Alliance Française de Manille is at 209 Nicanor Garcia St. (formerly Bayani St.), Bel-Air 2, Makati. The exhibit runs until March 31. Call 8895360 or 8957585, e-mail: adm-mail@alliance.ph, or visit www.alliance.ph

'Architect as god' exhibit at UST

IN CONNECTION with the Quadricentennial of the University of Santo Tomas in 2011, the College of Architecture is holding the exhibit, "Deus Architectus Mundi: The UST Architecture History and Legacy Exhibit 2011," at the UST Beato Angelico Gallery until this week.

The exhibit highlights the UST College of Architecture's 81 years of history and alumni accomplishments. It is also held in connection with the UST Architecture Batch 1966 silver jubilee homecoming.

The title is from the great 14-BC Roman architect-engineer-writer historian Marcus Vitruvius Pollio, who stated: "Deus architectus mundi—God is the great architect of the world, then architects are second only to God."

The predecessor of UST Architecture education is attributed by the conference of the Second Artist Award on Date of its alumni: Leandro V. Locsin (1990); Ildefonso P. Santos (2006); and Francisco T. Mañosa (2009).

Sponsors on the UST Architecture Alumni Association, Inc., the Commission on Culture and the Arts (PCCA), UST College of Architecture, UST Architecture Batch '66, Inc.; and UST Research Center for Culture, Education and Social Issues.

The main artist of the exhibit is UST architect and heritage historian and professor Ferdinand Martinez that Cecilia Rocha, Mary Anne Balanadi is curator. Both is UST Architecture Batch '06.

LIBRARY on the second floor of the old Roque Ruano Building

Contributing writers and documentors include UST architects Norma Alarcon, Ma. Elena Cayanan, Clarissa Arevalado, Villa Soliman, Robert Brandet Hermano, and UST national writer-researchers Guillermina Mendoza, Alexandra Hope Chua and Gil Ochoa Santos.

Photo exhibit pays tribute to Edsa Revolution

THE PHOTO exhibit "Tribute to Ninoy and Cory Aquino," "Yellow photo journal, at Ridad "Boy" Ramos Gozon, opened last Friday at the Makati City Hall. Leading the ceremony of the ribbon-cutting were former Sen. Rolando Mercado, Ermita Councilor Dennis Gaidoni Alvarez, and Edgar Dalupan. The exhibit runs until March 15. Call 8905-4911/1187.

FROM the exhibit: "Tribute to Ninoy and Cory Aquino"

The Napoleon of sculpture; Eden right in your own home

"ABUEVA" BY Cid Reyes and "Your Garden, Your Eden" by landscape architects Dolly Abesa are two books that deserve special mention. All three, Abueva, Reyes and Perez, are respected colleagues who are also my dear friends.

"Abueva" is the definitive book that catalogues National Artist Napoleon Abueva's prolific work. So prolific has been Billy's work to date that his book weighs three kilos and measures 46 cm x 28 cm, hardly a book to read in bed.

Born Isabelo Sibaso Abueva in Bohol, a bit than zero in a Baptist school to christened the mischievous but strong-willed Billy as Napoleon, a name he carries since then, never losing that impish twinkle always in his eyes.

Versatility marks Abueva's work. From conservative to modernist, the range of his work can take on the personality of human figure going to the extreme of hard-edge abstraction.

In 1950, when there was little interest in sculpture in the Philippines, Billy enrolled at the University of the Philippines School of Fine Arts, where he remained to teach after his student years.

Very early in his career, his sculpture stood out, winning award after award not only in the Philippines but also abroad.

Sculpture, because of its three-dimensional nature, is an artform that demands to be experienced: to be touched, viewed in the round, and, unlike two-dimensional painting, it becomes part of physical space.

Architect's sightsaw

Billy manipulates space and is a master at it. He built, so, he analyzed for himself a temple in his Quezon City property. His temple, a stereotomic and solemn cathedral, rises on a web of thin spider like concrete columns that defy, to the pragmatic architect in me, any sense of structural logic.

Billy's vision, ever-the pragmatist. There his temple stands, strong, solemn and so absolutely playful in a corpus in church sort of way, a living hymn to his artworks of pure faith and of absolute delight.

My entry in the Abueva book on the temple caught me by surprise: Eugenio Villalon, architect and critic, visited Abueva's new house and left such marked impressions."

My "marked impression" was my telling Billy that his temple was an "architect's nightmare" because his unconventional structure went far beyond normal, rational engineering logic.

But then, Billy is totally unconventional. He is a man who has spent a lifetime following his vision, dropping it menus to me, but always with certainty and an admirable purity of purpose. It's the purity that sets Billy apart from others.

Yes, Billy's art sculptures have vision. But more important than that is the impact his art has made on human life by totally enriching it.

Dream home

Nature overcame dreams of owning a house with a garden something of the worst neglected landscape architect Perez in her first book, "Home, Haven, Heaven," written as a guide to help with planning, designing and bringing together the ultimate material means of one's dream home.

Two years later, Perez published a sequel, "Your Garden, Your Eden," a publication that walks homeowners, actual or prospective, through the steps required to plan out that perfect garden in surround that dream home with, since each homeowner, the book says, there's no personal version of a private, sanctuary/paradise.

Gardens fulfill many needs. The primary need is that they provide an area for people to connect with nature. Gardens are multi-activity spaces that call for ample outdoor space for family gatherings, entertaining, cookouts, outdoor dining, and simply relaxing.

Above all, gardens provide the opportunity to nurture and care for plants.

A garden is a paradise, indeed. But paradise does not appear out of nowhere as it did in the Bible. To create your own garden paradise, says Perez, demands many hard choices.

Paradise gained

The book runs through checklists of options: Where do you want to create that yard paradise? What do you want the paradise to contain? How should the paradise enhance your family lifestyle? What are budget limitations? Are you engaging a professional landscape architect to design your paradise?

How to choose a lot? Preferably not on a limb thoroughfare or a corner where, despite the possibility of having two fronts, the setbacks required from the street on each of the sides may limit your useable area.

Should it be flat or should the terrain slope? And, most importantly, what kind of storm do you get from your lot?

Going beyond the many questions that are necessary to fix the vision of what an individual's garden should be before starting the design path toward achieving it, the book shows page after page of handsome illustrations of gardens, intimate and grand, designed and executed by members of the Philippine Association of Landscape Architects (Pala), to show that paradise is, indeed, achievable.

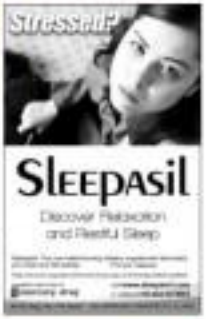
Living in a world of constant movement requires constant recharging of body and soul. The calming effect of being surrounded by a private paradise is what this book teaches everyone to achieve.

Both books are available at major bookshops. For additional information: "Abueva," published by JMATC Inc. for Philippine Art Awards, info@philippineawards.com; "Your Garden, Your Eden," e-mail abdy.perez@gmail.com

Please e-mail comments to pride.place@gmail.com

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto E. Villalon



Instituto Cervantes launches Santiago Bose's book 'Baguio Graffiti–Gatos Callejeros'

INSTITUTO CERVANTES de Manila, the cultural arm of the Spanish Embassy, will launch the book of Filipino mixed-media artist Santiago Bose (1949-2002) titled "Baguio Graffiti-Gatos Callejeros (Baguio Graffiti – Stray Cat)" on March 7, 7 p.m., at Instituto Cervantes' Salon de Actos.

Published in 2006 by White Wine Press in collaboration with Diputación Gobierno Gabinete de Arte in Madrid, Spain, this bilingual book includes two original texts by Bose himself: "Baguio Graffiti," an essay on Bose's childhood memories in an American army base in Baguio; and "Stray Cats," a dialogue on contemporary art.

Born in Baguio City in 1949, Bose earned a reputation as one of the most prolific, ingenious and innovative artists in the Philippines art scene after his first solo exhibit in 1975. His unique style and irreverent works are often characterized with his use of local and homegrown materials, such as bamboo, volcanic ash and debris.

He traveled around the world and received major grants and fellowships. His work is marked by a conscious avoidance of a single recognizable style, by varied foreign and local influences, and by an experimental bent.

Bose's works reflect a deep social, political and cultural sensitivity which are often accompanied with his special brand of wit and humor.

"Artistic flaws had received unanimous acclaim for his works locally and abroad, the book's editor, Bevin Pastor, says there is no sufficient scope of the artist's catalogues which can serve as an important tool for students, museum curators, researchers and collectors.

"Santiago has a place in the history of the Philippines since he has produced great works of art. Unfortunately, there's no big catalogue that covers the body of works of Santiago," he said.

At the book launching on Tuesday, Pastor will share his thoughts on the author and his works.

"Baguio Graffiti–Gatos Callejeros" is organized by Instituto Cervantes de Manila in collaboration with the Spanish Embassy in the Philippines, and Spanish Agency International Cooperation for Development (Aecid).

Copies of the book will be sold during the presentation. For more information, call 5245-892, visit http://manila.cervantes.es, Instituto Cervantes de Manila is at 659 Tibi Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila.

Viola's 'Promettre' at GSIS Museum

JOSEPH VIOLA after his first overseas show, Viola is back in the art scene with a manifold series titled "Promettre" (the word promise translated into French). His new collection of paintings, done in oil, watercolor and acrylic, is on exhibit at the GSIS Museum, GSIS Bldg., Financial Center, Pasay City.

The show promises to be more daring in values and theme. "Promettre" is a project of Kamuning Bakal Language and Arts Foundation, president of which will go to the foundation's Art with H.E.A.R.T (Humanistic Effort to Advance Rare Talent) program. For more on Viola and Art with H.E.A.R.T., visit http://www.casinohana.com.

Visual Arts

Lantin at SM Art Center

On view at the SM Art Center - SM Megamall Bldg. (E) until March 1 is "Inner Light," a suite of works by Edgardo Lantin. In this show organized by Erosb Art Hub, the Visayan-born artist examines his power of figuration, creating his symbols in idyllic settings characterized with dramatic lighting and shading. With scientific eye, as opposed to mere sky photographer, Lantin reveals a world that is saturated with detail and yet bodes expansive with his masterful stroke at highlighting aspects of the scenery, drawing the viewer to a focal point which is usually the model's face. As though lit with an inner glow, hence the title, Lantin's models seem to be infused with spirituality and moods, a certain biographical dimension. Lantin's talent is deeply rooted in classical portraiture but is burnished with a particular modern expressiveness.

"SLAGAD ng Sining"

Oborrio et al. at Artes Orientas

"CANDLES," by Noel Oborrio

Artes Orientas Gallery's present "Cosa ultima," a group exhibit showcasing the new works of Noel Oborrio, Francis Nacion, Carlos Degchiengco and Robert Borongan. Exhibit runs until March 3 (tel. 8988641 loc. 3259877).

Cebu artists hold Manila show

"Twilight of Cebu," paintings by Cebu artists will be on view Feb. 21-March 6 at Exhibition Center for Contemporary Art - ECCA) Gallery (Chemistry Bldg., Ateneo de Manila U., Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, Quezon City; tel. 9261163, 9261140, 9931837/9376). Participants include Sarita Abrenilla, Oscar Cardino, John Bingbing, Jason Cly, SJ, Gilder Lobenga, Celso Deano Pepito, Ito Madrid Pepito, Nicholas Siojaco, Remy Rivett, Sonia Pradera.

BY CESAR Castillo and, below, Deano Pepito

International artists at Altro Mondo

"Enigmatic Fantasies" shows paintings of nine emerging international artists: Mateo Andres of Argentina; Christophe Avila Bagot, France; Andres Bachspun, Philippines; Hsien Bachas, France; Alex Cerny, Philippines; Jason Montinola, Philippines; Guy Oberson, Switzerland; Dijan Shu, China; and Tai-shiao Yamamoto, Japan. It runs at Altro Mondo Arte Contemporanea until the Ilio Space Of (3A, Greenbelt 5, Makati; tel. 9516312-71; www.altromondo.com.ph) until March 8.

BY ANDRES Barrogaten

Lee at CCP

Lenore RS Lee, a Filipino printmaker based in New York and Vancouver, presents a 20-year retrospective of her art in "Lenore RS Lee: Fresh Cevicl" on view in the CCP Main Gallery (Cultural Center of the Philippines, Manila; tel. 8321702) until April 24. Over 70 artworks includes her early prints crafted from carborundum, collotypes, solar etching, monotype from plexiglass markings, xerography transfers, etchings, serigraphy, screen intaglio, computer processing, inkjet enlargements, lithographs, photo-cells and giclee works based on her nature and nostalgia series. Lenore's most recent work with images using brushes and ink on rice paper will also be on display.

Chabet in Hong Kong

"Excipable & Snakelegged, Part II," which will open March 8 in Hong Kong's Osage Kwun Tong, is a major exhibition of over 60 contemporary artists from the Philippines, all of whom studied with or were mentored by Chabet at University of the Philippines, College of Fine Arts, or at key artist-run spaces in Manila.

Curated by Hingo Bonoan, Isabel Ching and Gary-Ross Pastrana, the wide range of works featured in the exhibition include painting, drawing, collage, sculpture, installation, photography and video. Reflecting the diversity of interests and practices in Philippine art today, they are connected by a continuing discussion on alternative forms and ways of thinking about art—issues that Chabet has consistently raised through his own art, curated exhibitions and teachings.

Included are works by Abo Ucoh Dalova, Ai Cruz, Alvin Villareal, Alvin Zafra, Amy Aragon, Anna Cabagbag, Angie Bandoy, Bea Camacho, Bombet dela Cruz, Conny Lumba, Erik Sarza, Erland Cosunguco, Gary-Ross Pastrana, Geraldine Javier, Jayson Oliveria, Jay Ticar, Jed Escueta, Jonathan Ching, Jucar Rosasco, Kaloy Stumbler, Kolya Guerrero, Kalye Miranda, Kiri Dalena, Kristian Sagala, Lee Lim, Lena Cobangbang, Louie Cordero, Lui Medina, Manila Sanguyo, Marianne Ching, Master Ong, Mike Consolacion, Mike Santiago, MSP, Ito, Mona Garcia, Norberto Roldan, Pacresa Evasco, Paul Morabe, Paulo Victoria, Pipo Mico, Pratibha Anading, Pow Martinez, Renelle Dial, Reg Flores, Ringo Bonoan, Robert Langenegger, Roberto Chabet, Romeo Lee, Sara Kiyoumarsi, Nino Tayamo, Yasmin Sison and Yason Banal.

Anading, Pastrana at Silverlens

"Between Signal" is the first two-man show of Pratibha Anading and Gary-Ross Pastrana, ongoing at Silverlens Gallery (2320 Payang Torre Extension cor. Makati Ave., 8183884; manager@silverlensgallery.com; www.silverlensgallery.com; stall: silverlens_photo.com) this is coming together of sorts, finding each artist between their artistic processes. With photographs, mixed-media installations and video presentations, Anading and Pastrana, inspired by their artist residencies in Austria and Bangkok, respectively, weave separate paths out from the same cloth. Each work is a counterpart of the other's. The artists will give a talk on March 12, at Silverlens gallery. "Between Signal" opens simultaneously with "Even Bad Days are Good" by Mariano Ching at Studio and "Ink" by Dexter Fernandez at 3XSQUARE. All shows run until March 19.

Tablante at Crucible

"Les Femmes Fatales: A Couples Exhibit" by Jay Tablante is ongoing in Crucible Gallery (4/F Bldg. A, 3M Megamall, Mandaluyong). Tablante has been showing professionally for the past eight years, his concentration being in the fields of fashion and glamour. At heart, however, he is a self-admitted geek, and "Les Femmes Fatales" is another celebration of that geekiness. The exhibit features signature female characters from various comics, movies and videogames. Expect to see some rare super heroines and villainesses, and accompanying costume designs.

"ELEKTRA Nine-Nine"

32 artists to be honored with NCCA Ani ng Dangal

Davao toasts the arts

Text and photos by Dharen R. Marilla

BY THE sheer number of locals and visitors who flocked to the People's Park in Davao, it is safe to say the Philippine International Arts Festival succeeded in enticing both the city's distinctive culture-conscious alive and appreciated.

With life-size sculptures of Davao's fertile Mindanao scattered all over the park, acting as both inspiration for and guardians of the arts, the musicians, dancers and singers pulled out all the stops to entertain the crowd.

BALLROOM Performing Ensemble Inc.

Performers included Samahan ng Mga Manlilikha sa Davao Inc.), Mindanao Peace and Progress Through Music. The musical collective takes its name from the Sanskrit word samadhi meaning "nirvana" or "trance" or "oneness with God" which its members say is both a goal and their creative preoccupation.

The group believes music is effective in showcasing the region's cultural and musical heritage and endeavors, to encourage Davao musicians to proudly play in the world of live music entertainment.

MAGALLANES Elementary School Dance Troupe

The Kalusugan Performing Ensemble Inc. draws from its rich cultural heritage of the Lumads, Moros and Christian settlers. Kalusugan—which means "festivity" or "cheer"—consists of students, out-of-school youth, independent artists, and young professionals who excel in music, dance, film, theater, photography and the visual arts.

Another group that begins training its youth in the arts is Magallanes Elementary School Dance Troupe, which has received the highest honors and awards in several Folkdance and rondalla competitions in Mindanao. First organized in 1986, the troupe is the Bridal Ballet in Kadayawan champion in 1998 and was given the Hall of Fame Award in 2004 Search Mindanao.

Spanning up the group of performances is the LCB Performing Arts Foundation. Founded in 1998 by Lu Chin Bun with artistic director Ding Lucero, the group has produced over 20 productions of mainly Broadway musicals.

LCB Performing Arts Foundation

Some of LCB's well-received productions are "The Great White Way," "Kiss ng Buong Kalye," "Fil Musical" and "Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." They have been successful in the national level with productions like "Noli Me Tangere and Pagpapagay ng Buwenamigo Lumbera: A Tribute to our National Artist."

PIAF 2011 festival director Ricardo de Ungria described the celebration as "a call to hope, a challenge to act, an invitation to commit, a celebration of creativity, and an affirmation of the Filipino's inner strength to be a catalyst of social transformation."

32 artists to be honored with NCCA Ani ng Dangal

THE CELEBRATION of Philippine International Arts Festival 2011 (PIAF) comes to a close today, Feb. 26, with last leg Dangal at Solaire Hotel.

Held in recognition of Filipino artistic talents that have brought honor to the country in the previous year, Ani ng Dangal, has become the traditional closing event of the festival.

This year, there are 32 honorees from the seven sets represented in the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Subcommission on the Arts. These are architecture, cinema, dance, literature, music, theater and visual arts.

Ani ng Dangal also recognizes efforts made in allied fields like broadcasting.

To confer the awards are NCCA Chairman Jurlan Ramos, NCCA executive director Malou Jacob, Commissioner on the Arts and festival director Ricky de Ungria, and members of the Artists Committee together with PIAF set ambassador Sisa Rinkoda and NCCA youth ambassador Gingkong Linares.

Dreamscape the number of honorees with 16.

Dreamscape honorees are Nestor Jacinto Aragjohan, Beatrix Cangio, Orpheus M. Flores, Monster Jimenez, Ralston Javier, Lou Veloso, Mark Molly Meryll Soriano, Francis Xavier Butoy, John Paul Antal, Anita Linda, Joseph Andreas, Brilliante Mendoza, Elliot Ramos and Paolo Villaluna.

Brigadista won the festival prize at the 2010 Asian Barat-Mediamedia Competition & Exhibit and Best Film at South East Asian Documentary Award International Science Film Festival for "SAPUTON: Buhay Simbuyo."

Cuepo, Flores, Linda and Mendoza won awards for the film "Lola." Cuepo and Flores won Best Actress and Best Cinematography respectively at the 13th Las Palmas de Gran Canaria International Film Festival. Linda won Best Actress at the festival. Mendoza, meanwhile, won the Golden Lady Hermagoras grand prize.

"Lola" also won for Mendoza Best Director at Singapore International Film Festival, Grand Jury of Long Metrage & Penn award at Festival Internacional de Cinema do Onde e Deniendes, Mallo International Film Festival Prize at Dubai International Film Festival, Grand Knight Jury Prize at Miami Filmfest, Newcomer Jury Award and Don Quijote Award at 24th Fribourg International Film Festival, and Best Film at Rome Asian Film Festival.

Jacinto won the Mila Award for First Appearance Prize Documentary at the 23rd International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam for "Kano: An American and His Harem." Javier won multiple awards for "Babal Boys." These are Best Screenplay at Isaiaha Gamegnehi Intelligent Party (IGP) International Digital Cinema Festival, Cipsant Prize for Best Film about Child Labor at Nantes International Film Festival, Best Digital Film at the 12th Barcelona Asian Film Festival, and Public Award for Best Film at Lyon Asian Connection Film Festival.

Lou Veloso

Veloso won Best Actor award International Competition at the 36th International Independent Film Festival in Belgium for "Caburnay." Abrio and Soriano won, for "Dance" at the 37th Hamada International Film Festival, Best Film and Best Actress, respectively. Pascua won

LOGO of the 2011 Ani ng Festival

The awards recognize Filipinos who have won international honors

Best Fiction Feature Film at the 8th Etnografik International Film Festival for "Lola." Mendoza's "Lolas" was adjudged Best Short Film at New York International Independent Film & Video Festival.

Alamo won Outstanding Animation Program for "Hop and Landing" at the 42nd Primetime Creative Arts Emmy Awards. And Ramos and Villaluna won Best Short Film at the 2nd Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival 2010 for "Walong Banggang Paalam."

Music

Music's honorees are Marielle Cortez, Margaret Marie Pecio Obiga, Lorelei Bergantiños, Philippine Normal University Chorale, Silliman Statistics, University of Santo Tomas Singers and University of St. La Salle Chorale.

Cuepo won Grand Champion Performer of the World Grand Champion Award in Kaohsiung World Choir Games 2010, and Bergantiños won Grand Prize for 35- to 45-year-old at Shai Palos 2010, and Bergantiños won Grand Prize at the 11th Asia New Singer Competition 2010 Asia Music Festival.

PNU Chorale won Grand Champion, Category III Youth Choir Mixed Young Adult Choir (Champion), Category IV Mixed Choir Folk/World Program (Champion) and Category IV Mixed Choir Free Program (Champion) at the 1st Ciudad Talavera Festival (CTF) International Choir Competition 2010. Antonio's "Walton" won Best Song at the 11th Asia New Singer Competition (2010 Asia Music Festival).

UST Singers

The UST Singers won a slew of prizes in several competitions in Europe. They won 1st Prize (Premio de Salvatore (Juan Ignacio) and 1st Prize Premio Internazionale and Premio del Pubblico at the 56th Certamen Internazionale de Polifonia y Folklore, top prize at the Mixed Choir and 54th Song competition of the 2010 Festival Internazionale di Musica di Canterigola (28th International Music Festival), Choir of the World Grand Prix-The Pentecost Trophy 1st Prize-Youth Choirs Category, and 1st Prize-Mixed Choirs Category at the 63rd Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod 2010; 1st Place in Mixed Voice Choir, Madrigal Singing, Sacred Music and Open Choral Competition and Best Visiting Choir at the 2010 Tampere International Festival; Grand Prix Musica Cantat 2010 and 1st Prizes in Sacred, Secular/Folklore, and Jazz/Gospel Special Categories at the 6th International Choir Festival Musica Cantat. Super 2010; and Grand Prize-Open Choir Category and 1st Prize in the Mixed Choirs, Madrigal Singing, and Sacred Categories, and Best Singing Choir at the 17th Tampere International Choir Festival.

The SLSU Chorale won gold in Folklore & Capella; silver in Chamber Choir-Mixed; and silver in Spiritual, Gospel, Jazz at International Choir Festival Grand Prix.

Visual arts

Visual arts honorees are Carlos L. Espiritu, Marvil Reyes Laigado, Jerome Allen Lorico, Dante Calvin Tiu Tangonan and Ochoy Yu Yipet.

Paguenza's "Chrysler Building &1449" won Gold Medal at the 9th Special Themes Category, 2010 Trienenberg Super Cicoil; Architecture category. Tangonan's "Home is My Life" won Grand Prize at Mitsubishi Asian Children's Exhibition. Ami Yipon won Grand Prize for People and Figure Category at International Asian Biennale Competition.

Langeri's "My World My Dream" won Grand Prize at Hong Kong International Students' Visual Arts Contest and Exhibition. Lorico's "A Dress Inspired by Silk and Water" won Fashion Grand Prix, Carvajal's Fashion Award and Japan Contest Association Award at Japan International Fashion Competition.

Literature

Marjorie Evasco and Hubb Cruz Dance Company are the organizer have

NCCA officials led by Jun Lual Enrino

scores of Literature and Dance. Broadcast Arts honorees are Nina Corpuz, Kara David and Inquirer.net.

Honors went the South East Asian Music Award. The Hubb Cruz Dance Company won Grand Prize and has gold trophies at the 21st Century International Arts Festival Dance Competition and Best Male Dancer at Barcelona Cup International Dance Championship.

The awarding ceremony is closed tonight as it is held Philippine Plaza Hotel. All honorees will receive a commemorative trophy designed by National Artist for the Visual Arts Abdulmari Imao Imao. An artwork in itself, the trophy incorporates the Mayonan surrounds and PIAF logo, which is a star-like burning sensor and color genius representing the seven arts.

An exhibit showcasing the awards and citations issued by these 32 honorees is on display at the ground floor gallery of the NCCA building in Intramuros. Some of the winning works are also on display. The gallery is open Monday-Friday during office hours. The NCCA building is at 633 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. Call (02)527-192 loc. 412-413 or (02)-5085057; visit www.ncca.gov.ph.

Young pianist Inna Montesclaros to hold concert

By Amyanis C. Hita
Contributor

PURSUING TO study abroad has always been a big dream for our gifted performing musicians who want to hone their talents to the fullest. Financial constraints have always been a deterrent to the realization of that dream.

Just to undertake the live auditioning—the audition process of first continuing styles which will be played before a jury, including the commencement—to finals. Most of all, it requires considerable funding that will be disbursed for transportation, accommodation, application fees.

The live audition is done many months before an incoming student actually undertakes schooling, which normally takes place in September, marking the opening of the school year abroad.

Ms. Regina "Inna" Montesclaros, a talented young pianist who has garnered top prizes in local as well as international piano competitions, is one such musical gem who should go abroad for further study.

Now 16, and in a graduating high school student of Colegio San Agustin, "Inna" is preparing for multi-an educational sojourn in the US for this year but next year.

For this reason, the National Music Competitions for Young Artists (Namcya) is holding a

MS. REGINA "Inna" Montesclaros

fund drive for her projected study abroad in school year 2012.

Beethoven and Bach

Inna will play two piano concertos, Beethoven's Fourth Concerto in G Major, Op. 58; and Rachmaninoff's Second Concerto in C Minor, Op.18, on March 26, 8 p.m., at Philamlife Theater.

Beethoven's "Egmont" Overture and Shostakovich's Festive Overture will complete the program. Inna will play the concertos with Manila Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Arturo Molina.

Those practically followed Inna's development from the time she was five years old until now, like trained with Cecile Basilio-Ocampo for quite a while and is now under the tutelage of Raul Sunico.

Both musicians are line- and

record piano pedagogues. Inna will spend a year of study with Sunico in the collegiate level this coming school year.

Two years ago, Inna won the gold prize in the International Piano Academy Festival and Competition in Cheonan, South Korea.

Last September, she won silver in the 1st International Piano Competition in Hanoi, Vietnam, and bronze in the Concerto B Category (she was the only winner), and, in November, the bronze prize. She was solo winner at the 8th International Chopin Piano Competition in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

All the help

She won five First Prizes in competitions in the country such as PTGP Beethoven Concerto Competition, Category C (July 2010) and Museum Concerto Competition, Category B (November 2009); Namcya, Category A-2 (November 2008); Rosario Piano Competition (June 2008); and Molave College Center for Applied Music Competition for Young Artists, Category A (2005).

The daughter of Edgardo and Zilan Montesclaros, Inna certainly deserves all the help from our small musical circle, the general public as well as corporate institutions.

Thus far, Davina Shipping and Transport Corp., the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and Cirtu Piano and Organ Corp. have extended their assistance.

This concert is event. Tickets (the seating) are priced at P1,000; Orchestra Center; P800; Orchestra Left and P500; Orchestra Right and Loge.

Call Namcya, Sunday Friday, at 8362924, 8362820 and Corporate Affairs office of Philamlife Insurance Company, 5265250. Students and senior citizens will get a 50 percent and 20 percent discount respectively.

CAROL Arguillas, Hildegarde Awardee 2011, member of MindaNews, Arguillas has been advocating culture-sensitive peace journalism.

St. Scholastica's bestows Hildegarde Awards for women in media

ST. SCHOLASTICA'S College-Manila is slated to stage the 5th Hildegarde Awards for Women in Media and Communication on March 5.

The award is named after St. Hildegard von Bingen of Germany, the celebrated medieval theologian/nun who was considered ahead of her time in many ways, at a time when women were relegated to the confines of the home. Hildegarde was a counselor, linguist, naturalist, scientist, philosopher, physician, herbalist, poet, visionary and composer.

This year's Hildegarde Lifetime Achievement awardees are peace journalist Carolyn Arguillas and puppetry pioneer Amelia Laperis-Bonifacio.

Arguillas is the editor of MindaNews and the newly published magazine Dia' Min'danao. She is recognized as an expert in Mindanao affairs and has extensively covered the peace process.

Laperis-Bonifacio is an educator, playwright, and known as the "Grand Dame of Southeast Asian Children's Theatre."

Special citations for outstanding achievements in media by, for and about women covering the 2008-2010 period—will also be given.

Special citations in the field of advertising will be given in "Mahalaga sa Komplero sa Buhay ang Pamilya," a television commercial for Unilever Mr. Noodles; "Para Kanino Ka Nanaghirap?" an advertisement for Ferrandi Coffee; and "Bisaya Imate," an advertisement for Mito. All three were made by Publicis Manila advertising group.

In broadcast journalism, awards will be given to GMA 7's "Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho," TV5's "Aksi Ultimo TV," and ABS-CBN sports journalist Joyce Castillejo, for her reports on Manny Pacquiao's international title bouts.

For projects and works dealing with development communication, Gabaldo's Project Bayanihan will be given special citation, as well as ABS-CBN's "Matanglawin" and the Iloilo for Kids campaign by Tolabo Inosan.

Special citations for print and online media include Anne Marion Uriel's articles on women's issues, published on Bulatlat.com, an alternative online news magazine; Women in Action, the magazine of Isis International, will also be given recognition, as well as the publication Cash Overload, Media Overdrive: The Press and the May 2010 Elections by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism.

The 5th Hildegarde Awards ceremonies will be held March 5, Saturday, at St. Cecilia's Hall of St. Scholastica's College, Manila. Program starts 2:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Meg Sicam at (0917) 8001345, megsicam@gmail.com; or Jasmine Showalter@gmail.com at (0922) 8032304, jasmineshowalter@gmail.com.

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Cut and keep the Guyito coupon published daily in the Inquirer.

Promo Mechanics

1. This promo is open to all Philippine Daily Inquirer broadsheet readers nationwide.
2. Promo period is from January 16 to April 15, 2011.
3. Find the Guyito Wild Hunt coupon which may be found in different editions of the Philippine Daily Inquirer broadsheet. Each Guyito coupon to be printed daily will have a Guyito code.
4. Participants may submit the Guyito code to earn promo entries via text/SMS.
5. One (1) Guyito Wild Hunt coupon may be found daily on Philippine Daily Inquirer broadsheet from Monday to Sunday.
6. To register for the promo via SMS, participants need to text the required information to 4467 following the syntax below. They will then receive a confirmation message from Inquirer acknowledging their mobile phone number's registration to the promo.
   Syntax: **GUYITO<space>REG<space>NAME/AGE/GENDER/COMPLETE ADDRESS send 4467**
   Example: GUYITO REG MARK VARGAS/22/M/Unit 209 Lotus Bldg. San Vicente St., Makati City send 4467
   Inquirer Confirmation (SMS Message/Reply): **"You are now registered to the Guyito Wild Hunt 2011 Promo. You may earn your promo entries by texting GUYITO<space>UNIQUE CODE to 4467. Promo runs from January 16 to April 15, 2011. Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0261 Series of 2011. See print ads for details. Standard text messaging fee of P1.00/text applies."**
7. To earn an entry via SMS/text: Once the participant finds a Guyito coupon in the Inquirer broadsheet, he/she can send in the following information to 4467 in the correct format and sequence as shown below:
   Syntax: **GUYITO<space>GUYITO CODE send 4467**
   Example: **GUYITO ABC123 send 4467**
   Inquirer Confirmation (SMS Message/Reply): **"Thank you for sending in your promo raffle entry. Be sure to cut out the Guyito coupon with the corresponding unique code from the Philippine Daily Inquirer broadsheet and keep it as your proof of entry. Promo runs from January 16 to April 15, 2011. Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0261 Series of 2011. See print ads for details. Text messaging fee of P1.00/text applies."**
8. All information sent will be kept confidential and will be used solely for the promo service.
9. Registration to the promo is only once and free of charge. Sending of entry via text/SMS is P1.00/message.
10. A registered participant/mobile number can only earn up to five (5) entries per unique Guyito code. Any additional attempt at sending an entry using the same code will not be recognized and accepted for the promo.
11. Entries using any of the unique Guyito codes, regardless of publication date of the codes, shall be valid during the entire promo period.
12. Guyito coupons with Guyito codes used to earn raffle entries must be cut out and kept to be shown as proof of purchase in the event that the participant's entry is chosen in the draw. Winners who are not able to present the Guyito coupon with the corresponding code will be disqualified.
13. Draws will be held at 2:00pm on the following dates: 1st Draw on Mar. 1, 2011 and 2nd Draw on March 29, 2011. Grand draw is on April 28, 2011.
14. Entries will be drawn via electronic raffle.
15. The promo raffle prizes are as follows:
    1st Draw (March 1, 2011)
    - Five (5) winners of Php 20,000 each
    - Two (2) winners of Suzuki Raider J Motorcycle

    2nd Draw (March 29, 2011)
    - Five (5) winners of Php 20,000 each
    - Two (2) winners of Kawasaki Thunder 125 Motorcycle

    Grand Draw (April 28, 2011)
    - One (1) winner of one (1) unit of Mitsubishi Montero Sports GLS 4x2 4x4
    - Five (5) winners of Php 20,000 each
    - Two (2) winners of Suzuki Skydrive 125 Motorcycle
16. Twenty percent (20%) tax for prizes exceeding P10,000 shall be shouldered by the winners.
17. The 3-year LTO registration, insurance, other accessories will be for the account of the winner.
18. All winners will be notified via registered mail.
19. All non-winning entries will automatically be included in the succeeding draws.
20. A participant can only win once per draw. If a participant's name gets drawn more than once, the ones of higher value will be given.
21. Cut-off date for the 1st draw is on February 15, 2011 at 5:00 pm.
22. Cut-off date for the 2nd draw is on March 15, 2011 at 5:00 pm.
23. Cut-off date for the Grand draw is on April 15, 2011 at 5:00 pm.
24. All draws will be held at the Inquirer Main office (PDI Bldg. 1058 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City) to be facilitated by Inquirer executives in the presence of DTI representatives.
25. The complete list of all winners will be published two (2) weeks after each draw date in the Philippine Daily Inquirer broadsheet.
26. All winners below eighteen (18) years of age need to have their parents or legal guardian with them to claim their prize. Both the winner and parent/guardian should present valid identification. The latter should also present proof that s/he is the legal guardian of the winner.
27. Prizes are non-transferable but not convertible to cash.
28. Winners from Metro Manila may claim their prize at: Marketing Department
    Philippine Daily Inquirer 1058 PDI Building Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City
    Winners residing outside Metro Manila may claim their prize at the nearest Inquirer Bureau indicated in the registered mail.
29. All winners must present the following to an authorized Philippine Daily Inquirer representative:
    a. Two (2) valid IDs with complete name, picture and current address. Photocopies of any of the ten documents (driver's license, employment/school ID, SSS ID, and/or passport) should be submitted upon claiming of prize.
    b. The registered mail that the Philippine Daily Inquirer will send to the raffle draw winner.
    c. Proof/s valid identification and authorization letter from the winner (if prize is claimed through proxy).
    d. Guyito coupon with the corresponding winning code.
    e. The SIM card where the entry was made:
       i. If the name of the subscriber indicated in the Smart billing system as being the postpaid subscriber is different from the name of the sender of the winning entry of the Promo, the sender of the winning entry of the Promo will be qualified to receive the prize if he submits an affidavit from the postpaid subscriber certifying that the postpaid subscriber has authorized the winner to use his postpaid SIM card to join the Promo and that he waives his right to the prize in favor of the winner.
       ii. If the drawn postpaid SIM card number corresponds as a subscription of a company, then the sender of the winning entry of the Promo will be qualified to receive the prize if he submits an affidavit from the duly authorized representative of the company owning the postpaid SIM card certifying that the company has authorized the sender of the winning entry to join the Promo and that the company is waiving its right to claim the prize won.

    IMPORTANT: Failure to submit any of the required proof and documentation is a ground for disqualification.
30. All prizes must be claimed within sixty (60) days from receipt of registered mail from an Authorized Philippine Daily Inquirer representative.
31. All unclaimed prizes after the said date shall be forfeited in favor of the Inquirer with prior DTI approval.
32. All employees of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, its sister companies, advertising agencies and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are not eligible to join the promo.

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*Compared to past Guyito Wild Hunt promos

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Slice of life

Spotlight on family bonding moments

McDonald's is re-airing some of its commercials and seen on TV nowadays is the very first 'Kitakits' campaign

By Marlet D. Salazar and Kenneth M. del Rosario

"Ito. Para sa paborito kong apo. Si Karen." The "Lolo" (a.k.a. "Karen") ad spot had successfully achieved its goal: it touched viewers' hearts and communicated the message that bonding moments can happen anytime and anywhere.

The McDonald's commercial in 2002 has perhaps, in many ways, transformed the landscape of the advertising industry in the country. It drew favorable reactions from consumers and won the creative gamut of advertising. The ad spot has become a benchmark for succeeding commercials not only for the fast-food chain but also for competing brands.

More than building and localizing the brand, McDonald's started a campaign geared towards family ties and values – and what better way to illustrate family bonding moments than through a meal shared? For Filipinos, mealtime goes beyond filling the stomach for like celebrating the need for interaction and companionship.

"There are many core moments when I see a little excitement rushing all by himself," said Shanly Sitoy, one of the ministers in launching the advertising approach of McDonald's. He was with advertising agency Leo Burnett Manila at the time when the "Kwakits" campaign was launched. Manila today is the managing director of ABS-CBN Corp's Cable Channels and Print Media Group.

"I did my own research of McDonald's stores and tried to see how we can make campaigns centered with Filipino moments. Like observing customers behavior," Sitoy said. He realized that Filipinos love to be with friends, with other people, and celebrate togetherness especially during mealtimes. Anyone watched that this became the inspiration for McDonald's into localizing the brand through advertising.

From the "Kwakits" campaign, McDonald's then had to adapt the global brand of "I'm lovin' it" but needed to give it a Filipino flavor. Leo Burnett Manila wanted to continue the direction of localizing the recommendation approach of McDonald's that started with "Kwakits" by coming something that would appeal to Filipinos while at the same time staying true to the global direction. Thus, the now proverbial "love ko 'to" came in be.

The "love ko 'to" campaign was able to encapsulate the brand and was successful in connecting with Filipino audiences. "McDonald's' long-lasting commercials became a catalyst for family bonding moments," said Jaypee Gobble, Leo Burnett Manila's ADP for business development. Whenever "love ko 'to" is mentioned, McDonald's comes in mind even years after it was first launched.

Lolo

When the "Lolo" spot first aired and drew so much positive feedback, Leo Burnett Manila was taken by surprise. "We were initially worried that people would see it as melodramatic instead of heartwarming," said Medalo. "It was our first attempt to do something different from the usual 'fun and light' tone of commercials back then."

When the viewers' verdict came in, we all drew a huge sigh of relief. "Yes, they got it," Medalo continued. "It was a departure of a slice of Filipino life".

"The reaction from people were astounding and overwhelming that there were calls for McDonald's to share who 'Clara' was and that a part two should be made and scripts were even sent to us. It was amazing!" extolled Raymund Ian Isidro, Leo Burnett Manila's managing director.

"The gentle, non-intrusive way in which the commercial was crafted, with natural conversation flow (pauses and all), no music to distract from the 'moment', to the effective cast and careful close direction from Olin makes Identity Studio, all contributed to making the campaign a classic that it is today," said Richard Ureta, then creative director of Leo Burnett Manila, who was one of the heads that brought the campaign to conception.

"The best practitioners of advertising are innately curious about and in natural observers of real life. Many hours came back with many wonderful stories but 'Lolo' stood head and shoulders above the rest," he said.

Rachel Pantes, the current creative director of Leo Burnett Manila said it best, "the impact of the 'Lolo' spot doesn't come out often. It brought attention to the fact that an ad can be successful, can be in mood and well-received by audiences without being gimmicky."

Simbang Gabi

In 2005, McDonald's and Leo Burnett kept the ball rolling and launched the "Simbang Gabi" spot. The observance of attending dawn masses during Christmastime is a tradition that closely depicts the values of Filipinos as family-oriented people rooted in the Catholic faith.

The commercial starts inside a church with various preparations being done. Then, people are seen heading towards the church for the dawn mass, as the caption "tapyong Pedro, alas otsenta ang harurot amuyin" appears. At first, you wouldn't think that this commercial was for McDonald's until the end wherein a shot of a McDonald's store comes in right with the slogan "pagkatapos... kita-kits".

Family Portraits

The "Family Portraits" spot, more commonly known as "Thermometer," is another McDonald's TV ad that made a huge impact on Filipino audiences. The depiction of a family and the ensuing ripples of generations that follow is what a Filipino family is all about. Singer Noel Cabangon's song "Kumbentong" has become one of an anthem and was truly destined to be more a theme for the "Family Portraits" TV ad.

The scenes shown are very typical among Filipino households – a family happily sharing a meal during dinner time, children going through the different stages of growing up until they leave the "nest" and then parents being left all by themselves at home.

Anybody who has seen this ad spot experienced a tug at the heartstrings because of the reality it showed. The spot ends with an uplifting scene where the same family, with grandchildren and all, find themselves together, sharing a meal at McDonald's. Family reunions, just like the scene shown in the spot, is again another slice of Filipino life wherein families get together once more to bond and reminisce about the good times.

The poignant story of a family's different life stages coupled with the song "Kumbentong" definitely made an emotional connection with audiences both young and old – the spot transcends time and generations with the shared value of love for family and, of course, simple bonding moments at McDonald's.

Franklin's Eyes

"Franklin's Eyes" a commercial spot created this time with DDB Philippines, featured Sharon Cuneta and daughter Frankie. The spot is an example of just how kids can take cues from their parents. The spot, told through Frankie's

BACK E2

Slice of life

From page E-1

perspective, is a reflection of her mother's happiness when she's at McDonald's, eating her favorite McDonald's food - this is why she loved it too.

According to Tessy Gonzales, former executive creative director of DDB Philippines, all three spots that she did for McDonald's came from insights surfaced from love for family, simple and time like moments. "In the case of Yvanka's flute, we got a lot of feedback from moms who said that they were so touched by the spot. It strengthened the connection of McDonald's not only with the young ones but with parents as well," said Gonzales.

First Love

Not all heartwarming commercials have a happy ending.

In 2009, Tessy Gonzales helped form the TV spot "First Love" - a bittersweet love story which told the story of a boy who met his first love in a McDonald's store. Fast forward 20 years later and the ad showed the same boy and girl fall in love all over again in McDo.

It would have been as sweet as it seemed had it not been the occasion when the guy meets, for the first time, the girl's husband. It may not have been a "happily ever after" ending, but the McDonald's ad showed that she will always be the guy's first love.

"It's [the 'First Love' ad] my personal favorite because it's bittersweet. That's how life really is. It was brave of McDonald's to do something like that. I don't have a happy ending. But I think it's also why it remains to be endearing even until now," said Gonzales.

Tweens

The "Tweens" ad spot is another reflection of a phenomenon happening in society. The "tween" age bracket (8-12 years old) is now one of the biggest target markets by any product or service. The ad spot showed a boy taking a girl to a date. Like any boy growing up, he doesn't want to be seen with his parents.

His ending showed that no matter how much tweens try to be adults, they are still their parents' children. The boy's parents had already paid for his order and a flash of a smile is more than enough acknowledgment for them.

There are many ways to measure the success of a commercial - its impact on sales/store visits, ran through CRC the TNC stand out amongst the other ads in the break?), improving people's impressions of the brand. The story like the brand? upon having seen the ad?), cheers on the message brands, industry awardees).

Proud of the endearing power of the "Kisses" commercial is the more than 400,000 views of the TV spot uploaded by some (not officially connected with the company) users at YouTube. Gonzales said: "It's good to know that something produced over a decade ago continues to produce positive feelings towards the brand. A good ROI if there was one."

Forward to 2010, the "Lola" spot revolved the figure of the Dessole evangelist from the Creative Guild. Irvine is proud to have all three hours ticked with "Kisses" and "Opening" (though its said he felt more gratified when "Kisses" was voted "The People's Choice" in a nationwide text poll.

A lot of bloggers posted their reactions on their sites and many of them appreciate that McDonald's, even if it moves its icons to the United States and has grown globally over the years, chose to understand and embrace Filipino culture.

Both "First Love" and "Tweens" became instant hits on the web, leaving hordes and other sites abuzz with favorable comments from viewers. "These commercials generated a lot of buzz for McDonald's as a brand that really is family-centered," Gonzales said. In more ways than one, Filipinos have viewed McDonald's as if it's a homegrown brand. The divide has not been just blurred but totally eradicated and it's not just on the ad spots but also in the stores and the menus. "All of us have that story in our life," Perez said. "McDonald's commercials remind us of ourselves and our life."

TESSY Gonzales

MICHAEL Irvine

RAYMOND Jerusalem

BADGE Perez

MARCH Nuevas

It's good to know that something produced over a decade ago continues to produce positive feelings towards the brand. A good ROI if there was one.

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"PATAHIMIK"

Film cycle celebrates Spanish female filmmakers

INSTITUTO CERVANTES de Manila, the Spanish cultural center, presents a special nine-film line-up that showcases the achievements of contemporary female filmmakers who have established themselves as an important force in Spain's screen culture.

Titled "Spanish Female Filmmakers," this film cycle highlights the works of Goya Award winners Isabel Coixet and Icíar Bollaín and as well as award-nominated directors Icíar Bollaín and Patricia Ferreira.

The film cycle, in Spanish with English subtitles, opens March 4, 7 p.m., at Instituto Cervantes' Salón de Actos with:

"Tapioca," a full-length documentary directed by Gutierrella and Sally Gutierrez Brown who will both be present at the Philippine premiere of this film. This documentary chronicles a handful of the 10,000 displaced African refugees in a squatter camp called Freedom Park where fifty percent of the women are infected with HIV.

All screenings will be during Saturday at 4 and 6 p.m.

Screening on March 5, 4 p.m. is "Lunes que nunca te dije (Things I Never Told You)," an insightful comedy about two young people struggling with the meaning of love and death in the 22 minutes it will be followed at 6 p.m. with "La vida secreta de las palabras (The Secret Lifes of Words)," which follows the story of a hearing impaired factory worker who gives up his first holiday in years and instead travels out to sea to help.

On March 11, 4 p.m., Querejeta's "Hector" will be shown while her 2007 film "Sobre aceros de hilfas frances (Seven Billiard Tables)" screens at 6 p.m.

Bollaín tackles the harsh reality of domestic violence in Spain in her gritty drama "Te doy mis ojos (Take my eyes)" showing on March 19, 4 p.m. It will be followed afterwards with the screening of "Mataharis," which narrates the story of three female private detectives who uncover truths about themselves.

The film cycle concludes on March 26 with the showing of the 2001 suspenseful thriller "El alquimista impaciente (The Impatient Alchemist)" at 4 p.m. and the 2003 drama "Para que me olvides (Something to Remember me by).

Spanish Female Filmmakers is organized by Instituto Cervantes de Manila in collaboration with the Spanish Embassy in the Philippines, and Spanish agency International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

Admission to all the screenings is free on a first-come, first-served basis. Instituto Cervantes de Manila is at 103 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati. Call 5261482 or visit http://manila.cervantes.es.

UST launches Rita Gadi, Lourd de Veyra poetry books, other titles

THE UST Publishing House, as part of its goal of publishing 400 books for the year, recently launched seven publications this year, will be launching six new titles by UST Authors on March 2, 4 p.m., at the Tanghalang Teresita Quirino, Benavides Building in UST.

The launch will be held in cooperation with The Varsitarian, the official student publication of the University of Santo Tomas.

The books to be launched are "The House of Your Dreams" by Carlo Ramirez, "Selected Poems" by Rita Gadi, "Insectissimo!" by Lourd Ernest De Veyra, "Clairvoyance" by Carleman Dasmas, "It ni Tshinami ng Alabok" by Louie Jon Sanchez and "Study Hard" by Adrian Matawaran. All of the authors are graduates of UST who began their writing careers at the university as writers connected with The Varsitarian.

"The House of Your Dreams" reflects Ramirez's real estate "Breaking Signs." Comprised of 133 essays written over 17 years, it exposes the way life and literature inevitably and reveals how literature, even in a realist text known for its literary perspicuity, becomes significant and reflective of society.

"Selected Poems" by Rita Gadi travels through the many seasons in the poet's life. It is the journal of an artist born and a humanist living. It is also the movement of poet lives that keep coming back to revisit, sometimes recite, as in a chorale, and in their silences become even more powerful.

"Insectissimo," the third poetry collection by multi-awarded musician, poet and journalist De Veyra, like the concept of "wanak," defies definition.

The poems celebrate the damaged, fragmented, and ironic culture that is the Philippines embracing the inconsistent amalgam of aesthetic concepts and influences in all the drabbest chaos of their imagery the pushing, cringing brute of their control.

In "Clairvoyance," a collection of poetry by one of our latest and most prolific young poets, Dasmas offers an emcee of acid nostalgia that takes us what J. Neil Garcia calls the "sacred potential and universal apparitions of the Spirit in a resolutely tantalizing world," turning our gaze beyond the mundane, toward the contemplation of the sublime.

Sanchez, proclaimed by the Kamanlad ng Wikang Filipino as "Makata ng Taon" (2009), wins his first book of poetry. As in "Talasan ng Alabok," a exhibition of the poetics of common experiences and of various manifestations of faith.

"Study Hard" presents classical musician poet-teacher Allan Jazz Pacanza's narratives inspired by his students and by his own margins—from "childhood, domestic scenes, strange birds, [and] new places." These poems offer rich insight into a poet whose ability to conjure the sensuous language of poetry demonstrates a manner which is unique, different, and new.

The launching is part of UST Publishing House's 400 Books project for the UST Quadricentennial. It is open to the public. Call 7323521 or 4063611 loc. 8251, 8278.

Best-selling book 'I Am Number Four' reaches the screen

THE NEW YORK Times best-selling book, "I am Number Four," by Pittacus Lore is brought to the big screen by DreamWorks Pictures in a special-effects packed action thriller directed by D.J Caruso ("Eagle Eye") and produced by Michael Bay ("Transformers" series).

The teen-oriented movie stars Alex Pettyfer ("Wild Child"), Timothy Olyphant ("Damages"), Teresa Palmer ("Bedtime Stories"), Dianna Agron (TV's "Glee") and Callan Mcauliffe ("Flipped").

"When I first saw the manuscript for the book, I knew it would make a great movie," reveals Michael Bay. "It was a new twist on a classic scenario, with a great combination of realism and action."

A SCENE from the futuristic movie

"I Am Number Four" tells of an extraordinary young man, John Smith (Pettyfer), who is a fugitive on the run from ruthless enemies sent to destroy him. Changing his identity, moving from town to town with his guardian Henri (Olyphant), John is always the new kid with no ties to his past. In the small Ohio town he now calls home, John encounters unexpected, life-changing events-his first love (Agron), powerful new abilities and a connection to the others who share his incredible destiny.

As in the book, audiences can expect a suspense-filled experience featuring relatable, engaging characters grounded in the familiar realm of high school but caught up in a deadly mayhem.

Dramatic elements

The film's classic dramatic elements are set to draw the audience into the thriller from the opening scene to the climax. The lead character, John Smith, is struggling with the realization that who he always thought he was and who he really is are polar opposites, and he must make up his mind whether or not to accept his destiny, and the sacrifices it entails.

Its producer Bay says, "Number Four has a storyline that's going to catch up to him whether he wants to face it or not. That's where the drama of this movie comes from. This teenager finally finds what he's looking for, but he can't have it because he has to save the world first."

At the same time, John is a typical teen, pushing boundaries, challenging his guardian Henri at every turn, but not fully realizing the consequences. It is real life drama with high stakes.

The other action-driven suspense will keep viewers on the edge of their seats.

"The more you care about a character on a real level, when you put him or her in some powerful situation, the more real and the more terrifying the suspense is going to be because you really feel for that character," says Caruso.

Captivating story

Carruso found that combining the real life drama the characters en-

perience in "I Am Number Four" with their otherworldly abilities and keeping it "real" are both an enjoyable experience and a challenge for him as a filmmaker.

"The thing I enjoyed the most was keeping the characters grounded, even when the fantastical kicked in, you were relating to it at a human level," he says.

Caruso was immediately captivated by the story of "I Am Number Four," particularly the character of John Smith, played by Pettyfer. "When I read Pittacus' text it hit me," says Caruso, "I was really attracted to it from the character standpoint-the disenfranchised teenager who keeps moving around, not really putting down roots, and trying to figure out who he is. At the same time, he's got this hidden destiny. I thought it was a really cool story."

But what clinched for the story's unusual premise. "I've always been attracted to stories about ordinary people forced into extraordinary situations. Number Four is at once the opposite—an extraordinary guy who wants nothing more than to have a normal life," he says.

Caruso, who said he is interested in characters who are going through a dark period. "Through that darkness they figure out where the light is, and they find something good. What I enjoy exploring is the notion that you have to experience some bad things in order to grow up, and to find out who you are. Thematically, that happens to be the movie as well."

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LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

The real and reel 'Macbeth'

By Walter Ang
Contributor

THE REAL and the reel will be used to Arnico Juan Jr.'s staging of William Shakespeare's "Macbeth."

Months ago, July 5th custody mentioned to Juan a concept she had for the Bard's tragedy of a Scottish soldier who gains power through murder. "I wanted the supernatural world [of Macbeth] projected onscreen as I felt that would be the closest analogue to the supernatural in the present day."

"Think about it, all our fantasies, desires and projections are embedded on screens

THE REAL F3

Cordillera ballet dancer Biag Gaongen's coming of age

The Kankana-ey principal dancer of Ballet Philippines is the central character of Agnes Locsin's work-in-progress paying tribute to Philippine trees

By Tess Rejuso Manahan
Contributor

THE WEEKS idea of a performance in the round is to draw in the spectator closer to the performer and the performance.

Agnes Locsin, as of late, has chosen this type of intimate space, choreographing on the abilities of her dancers, driven by deep emotions that stem from her own personal experiences, like "Sojawa Tinbed," and now in her latest work in progress "Ugat Yuang Gubon (May sa Puno)", which

CORDILLERA F3

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JAIME Wilson and Terry Guzman

Cordillera ballet dancer Biag Gaongen's coming of age

From page F1

showcases the passion and determination she expresses in her choreographing advocacy.

Danced and narrated by former Ballet Philippines' principal dancer, Biag Gaongen, with brief pas de deux and pas de trois assistance with two female dancers (Monique Up and Samantha Martin), Lizelle chooses seven scenes: Bahnes, Kanayan, Calachechi, Acasia, Narin, Wyng and Maggie. Each one, as narrated by Gaongen, becomes a metaphor for the phases in his life's journey.

Lizelle unabashedly exploits the capabilities of Gaongen as a dancer who has mastered martial arts, and it seems, spiritually after a year with The Cloud Gate Dance Company of Taiwan.

The dance company's distinct style developed by founder Lin Hwai-min (Saint Anton practice but research for martial arts, yoga and Peking Opera movement and meditation) shares techniques that require a kind of discipline performance that can "make stillness every bit as eloquent as movement," wrote the Chicago Sun-Times.

Gaongen mimics the physical characteristics of each tree in his movements, whether it is swaying with the Kanayan, grounding like self firmly as a Bahnes, or spreading himself out as Maggie.

The tree characteristics are the most effective choreographic prop, but then again, on the anatomy of a dancer as disciplined, expressive and deep as Gaongen, seen up close, dancing trees are never the norm.

Last scene

Gaongen had always been a strong dancer, essaying lead roles in various styles and characterizations in pieces such as, Alden Lagunzad's "Paboña," Augusto Damian Of J." Ramos' "Tanan," Emmanuel Lahoreo's " Intrigad, Sizing and Entranged," and even the classical James in Felipe Taglioni's "La Sylphide." Now as Jean-Jean a different genre, Gaongen seemed ecstatic at finding himself in one with his new ballet in a movement body speak.

Gaongen is of an exotic breed, being one of the few (If not the only one I know) dancers hailing from the Cordillera region, specifically the Kankanay ethnic tribe.

In his grandfather was the last ritualist in his family. "And the last one to be buried in the famed hanging coffins on Sagada's limestone rocks," as pointed out in an article by Liana Amarillo on Gaongen.

Although he rarely was one of the concerts in Christianity in the 1990s, Gaongen remains faithful to some tribal traditions "that resonate." He was named after a family elder during his child baptism at birth, with the west of his mother's passing, his father killed 21 black pigs upon the insistence of the elders.

The Kankana-ey tribe was known to have been the people who refused to bend the Spaniards in the gold mines in the 1600s. It is this the tribe still uses the same tools of that century to extract gold from their caves.

The sense of community required its members to get only what was needed for the day. "Thus making the earth their point," said Antonio de Pigafetta, a chronicler of the Philippines at Spanish contact.

Quoting Gaongen from Amarillo's article, he expounds: "The way of living is communal. You won't be able to tell who is rich or poor. No one steps on the other to get ahead. The conversation is among equals. Whatever is the oldest, he is the one followed."

Unique wholeness

Yukon-ranch as three-sixth design is the life and living and the moral blue of Gaongen, which I believe contribute to the unique wholeness of his dancing today.

Expressing his life among trees as a whole, Gaongen's muscles and sinews ripple, tremble and undulate with each defined accuracy that the intent of the performance living in the round is achieved.

Every minute movement, controlled by a strong core, is visible and punctuated, unanimously punctuated by his audible breath.

His extensions which end, more often than not with pronated toes, (limited in feet, but not legs) defy common dance knowledge that pointed toes lead themselves to lengthening of the leg.

However, Gaongen's toes, which seem to endlessly flow, give the illusion of lengthening the movement, except that they end in a curved line instead of a point.

This is something seen in the movement language of Cloud Gate, which Gaongen has wisely adapted into his own movement vocabulary. It originated in Eastern martial arts, the slow yet deliberate isolation of muscle groups; the graceful contractions, the soaring leaps ending in quiet thuds.

Cost Hips continued it up when the "Tanan" (The ensemble lengthening in the toes if time combined with inexhaustible strength), per resulting in a contradictory display of ease and control in an unexpected chain of movement or a difficult "Tanan." It is an observation that holds up well in the light of Gaongen's artistic roots emerging with yet another Asian influence and classical ballet training. The combination fuses and becomes uniquely Gaongen's.

It was a refreshing sight to see Gaongen dance unselfishly in duets with Jaime Bonifacio. In his last narration, "Maggie," he related how he had gone back to his village hoping to climb the mango tree that in his youth had branches much too large for him to embrace. Perhaps now, he said, he was big enough to embrace them.

But, sadly, he was told the tree was uprooted by a strong wind brought by a storm. In beautiful prose by Lizelle and Joseph J. Cristobal, Gaongen narrated: "Pakiwinden dyd silisot dyn ang ang kabuhayan ni Fumaldo. Se kalinkan ko napuyd ubey nandita si abu'y dumyber."

Only one so connected to his roots can equate the loss of a tree to being orphaned and really connected, and expresses it so well in his choreography.

Gaongen, is off to Germany High products. "The legacy of Ballet Philippines combined with the innate element of Cloud Gate has gifted him with formidable tools for a memorable career to dance that will make every Filipino proud," wrote Cristobal.

In the interpretive, the final dance scene awaits Biag Gaongen's return to see what else he will bring into himself.

JAIME Wilson and Terry Guzman

The real and reel . . .

From page F1

that hold special power over our imagination—cinema, television, the Internet. They really govern the way we imagine ourselves," she adds.

Reworked for his storyboard staging of cartoon works, Juan liked the idea and developed it.

"Cervera shows and conceal. Reverses in movie theaters, television, computers, mobile phones and digital gadgets mirror only one or two dimensions of ourselves," he says. "Sometimes there are the other dimensions not captured by these screens. There are our deepest desires and fantasies, which we do not show but conceal."

Entitled "Cervera: Maskara," the performance is presented by the Department of English and Comparative Literature, College of Arts and Letters, University of the Philippines, as part of its centennial celebration.

Tending

"I can't lay claim to anything but the germ of it because after auditioning for my staged scenes from Antonio's production," she says. "Still no one has to imagination like Juan!"

Nonetheless, KK has an involved hand in tending and growing the idea. Not only is the acting as Lady Macbeth, she is also the production's director.

"Cervantes can be best explained as responsibility over the performance now," she says. "Not only in creation—that is, producing a cast that best embodies the director's vision of the play—but also ensuring that all the actors have a deep understanding of the text they are working with."

From reading the correct pronunciation of certain words to explaining "the intricacies ethos that envelops a play like Macbeth and why and how it differs from other Shakespearean plays," KK is more than qualified to provide guidance.

She teaches Shakespeare and Renaissance Literature to the graduate and undergraduate levels at the Department, and she's authored papers on Shakespeare (in relation to Southeast Asia) published in international journals and presented at international conferences. A list of Lady Macbeth in the role of a book KK has written. "You are Mr. Steve: Female Power in Shakespearean Tragedy."

Cervantes should also ideally be able to provide performance options by talking about how differing productions have used to interpret certain scenes, characters, etc."

More than merely cutting lines to fit a specified running time, KK notes, a dramaturg must also be able to "edit a text meaningfully, to best bring out the director's vision of the play and his readings/interpretations of the characters."

"A dramaturg must be versed in many things—literary historical, cultural, historical, philosophical, critical backgrounds and contexts, performance histories, a keen sense of what is possible, plausible, or plain unacceptable," she says. "It really demands a knowledge of the play and its ancient beyond what is commonly supplied by Google."

Relevant

KK believes the Manila theater scene "needs to evolve at more relevant engagement with Shakespeare in order to make the work less distant."

"Our staging, thanks to our colonial mentality, tend to be very static attempts at reproducing the Shakespearean scene—as if we were little tropical Elizabethans," she says.

The commends director Rudy Mindi's ability to weave Philippine performance traditions (komedya, carousels, bodabil) and Philippine history into his productions (such as an America vs Philippines twist in "Taming of the Shrew").

Finally, of course, from the lovely-sounding title scenes that underpins his Shakespeare," she says.

KK also notes "Where Love (not Blow)," director Herbie Go's prize-speak rendering of Rolando Tinio's translation of "Romeo and Juliet," as "terrific because it localized Shakespeare meaningfully."

In this particular production, where Juan "will beef up the videos with all kinds of local elements to present day realities," KK feels the use of projected imagery "brings Shakespeare closer to today's more visually oriented audiences. Unlike the most language-oriented audiences of Shakespeare's day."

"The play is about greed, power, ambition, moral issues that are very relevant to us in these days of 'Expelled' generals," she says.

Surprise guests

"I welcome any and all attempts to do something with Shakespeare that seek to make him mean to us in ways that require far less effort," she adds. "That way, Shakespeare's plays can reach wider audiences who, to me, can only be a good thing because I firmly believe that Shakespeare has much to say."

Partnering with KK as Macbeth is Tony Gonzales, joined by actors Nonnie Gaerlan, Ian Ignacio, Jaime Wilson, and Chuqui Sarpa.

Box-office and television comedy queen Eugene Domingo will have a special appearance along with other top prime guest actors, all former actors and students of Juan who have become established names in theater, television and film.

The production has video design by Wenzel David and assistant direction for video by Enzo Salazar. Assistant direction for stage is by Ira Valeza; sound design by Jethro Joaquin; set design by Glen Llanes; technical direction and lighting design by Melchor Bonus; costume design by Lhenel Peñaedo; and weapons design by Paul Gonzales.

"Actors: Macbeth" runs Feb. 28 to March 6 at the Abelia Center of the College of Mass Communication, UP Diliman. Call 0927-7490862, 0915-4326372 or 0263-6966. "Where the Boys: Female Power in Shakespearean Tragedy," by Judy Ick is available at UP's office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Development. Call 9272567 or 9272589 or order through Amazon.com.

TERRY Guzman as Macbeth and JUDY Ick as Lady Macbeth

JUDY Ick as Lady Macbeth

Ateneo's Dulaang Sibol presents a play that 'probes, disturbs'

By Oralee R. Pagsanghan
Contributor

WHEN you ask an Atenean to describe to you what an Atenean is in three simple words, he will most probably say, "Man for others."

How to put this "man for others" on center stage of Ateneo's Dulaang Sibol?

Of course, you can spot light the presence of something by putting it dead center. But sometimes it is more startling to spotlight something by its absence.

"Ito Kahoy ng Atong" explores the more enduring second option. What "Kahoy ng Atong" puts on center stage is not the "Man for others," but his antithesis—the "Man for self," in his many masks, the mask for prestige, the mask for possessions, the mask for power.

But, at the end of the play, when the mask for self accidentally, or better yet, by God's grace, is finally removed, his hollowness, what the audience sees is not only the shell of the man that is, but also the ghost of the man that could have been, and hopefully, in catharsis, the vision of the man he should become hopes in his.

Not comfortable

"Kahoy ng Atong" is not a comfortable play to watch; it probes, it disturbs. It pierces through the thin but impervious membrane that shields simplicity until it explodes into profundity in a shattering final scene.

"Kahoy ng Atong" is reminiscent of the morality plays of the medieval ages, particularly, "Everyman." Both plays revolve around a journey and contain around the journey's end. Both plays try to illuminate what in the life of today.

The play is not easy to watch, it is long, still in the world of the mask and the mind, the absurd and the absurd. Like this, they have set, dead set on the vanished splendor of the Kahoy ng Atong.

When this writer chanced upon the play's second performance, as written by a 14-year-old Gladiola in second-year high school, this writer knew that here, indeed, was the one masterful for a significant idyll play.

And Dulaang Sibol will be this one, at 8:30 p.m. on March 4, 5, 11, with its full, if limited seating, in theaterstyle, press dismissing to leap into poetry, hopelessly Quixotic, manic, a blend of folk and pop, idealistically young, naive and confusion, stylistic, fiercely filipino.

Makiling Guitar Duo performs 'Bach to Basics'

CLASSICAL guitar trio Ivan Nepa and Mabel Quesada, otherwise known as the Makiling Guitar Duo, will be featured in a two-day, five-show concert series, "Bach to Basics," at the University of the Philippines, Los Baños, CAL Auditorium on March 5 to 6.

The Makiling Duo will also be launching their debut album, which features the music of Bach, Vivaldi and Debussy.

The artists' partnership began at the early '90s at the UP College of Music where they both studied. Ivan is a former classical guitar instructor of the UP College of Music and is a professor of humanities at the UP-LB, where he is now based.

MAB Fajes and Mabel Quesada

He earned his Master of Music at the PWU School of Music on full scholarship. He has recently been awarded the Fulbright Scholarship to pursue his doctorate in the US this September.

Hong Kong-based guitarist Quesada is a graduate of Psychology and Music from UP Diliman. He was a recipient of the three Outstanding Music Student for two consecutive years at the Yamaha Music School of Philippines in 1988 and 1989.

He was also a former member of the Baguio Guitar Society, the Philippine Guitar Society, the UP Guitar Ensemble and the Philippine Youth Orchestra. Quesada also works with international concerts.

This concert is produced by the UPLB Department of Humanities in partnership with the UPLB Initiative.

Credit Cards to the MAX

LYDEN TIU-SOTO MARIEL HONTIVEROS
SOCIETY REPORTER ISSUE PAGE
For inquiries, please call 897-8000 local letter 301

Competition gives cardholders more than rewards

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE FIERCE competition for a big chunk of the Philippines' credit card pie has been very good indeed for existing and potential credit card holders.

Because credit card companies want to charm new customers and keep a tight hold on the ones that they already have on their list, they have been trying to dream other in improving their freebies and benefits on top of the basic services of credit card acceptability and efficient billing and collection.

This means more choices for those in the market for a credit card, which is becoming increasingly essential in the Filipino's fast-paced lifestyle. If one income more transactions in the Philippines and over 3,000 dining establishments in Asia Pacific.

The promotion features a wide range of discounts, complimentary treats and discounts. The program was first launched in Singapore and includes Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong and now, the Philippines.

Sandra Poh-Lo, Citi Country Business Head, says the dining privileges program is part of Citi's commitment to giving the best offers to its cardholders.

"As the world's largest and most trusted credit card issuer, Citi never ceases in innovating programs that we know our cardholders will surely love. Our programs have been designed with our cardholders in mind, ensuring that what we provide are offers that meet their lifestyles and preferences and that will reward big expenditures for our cardholders," Poh-Lo adds.

Starting until June 30, 2011, the Citi Dining Privileges Program guarantees cardholders the best dining offers and exclusive privileges in the Philippines. Cardholders just have to look for the Citi Dining Privileges sign at participating restaurant, then present their Citi card before placing an order to avail of the restaurant's dining discounts or freebies.

Citibank in the Philippines is no different as it has come up with promotions specially crafted to keep credit cards exciting and make HSBC the brand of choice.

It scored a first in the local industry when it launched HSBC Red MasterCard, which was the first credit card in the Philippines exclusively for women, and it has not stopped since, launching a tie-up for example with shoe retailer Charles and Keith to bring shoe addictions to its fold.

Then recently, it has launched marketing partnerships with other brands to promote instant rewards for its growing legion of cardholders.

According to Antonio Tiu, HSBC Philippines MSP and Deputy Head of Personal Financial Services, the competitive landscape has changed, with customers now wanting instant gratification as well as the traditional reward points.

"That's why we've come up with offers that make your credit card work as hard for your money as you do and offer real value every time you use them," Tiu said.

For example, and HSBC card receipt of P1,000 now gets you a free drink at Starbucks or P150 off your bid from Cubes. Just five receipts worth at least P10,000 each will get you a free trip to Hong Kong. And you still earn rewards points from every purchase.

Those are geared toward making cardholders happy to use their credit cards, since they get a whole lot more than just an instant purchase, exclusive rewards points and convenience.

"We know people have choices and we want them to choose HSBC and be glad they did so," Tiu stresses.

Standard Chartered Bank, meanwhile, partnered with mobile service provider, Smart Communications, to provide the latter's top-the-subscribers with exclusive banking privileges as well as access to the Infinity Standard Chartered Card, which is under the Platinum MasterCard franchise.

The co-branded card provides infinity subscribers with enhanced rewards and platinum privileges designed to make infinity subscribers feel more special and elite, including their easiest route in life, business or cause. Standard Chartered says in a statement.

"Customer among the benefits of owning an Infinity Standard Chartered Card include 5 percent cash rebate on all retail purchases and 10 units. This lofty dining rebate is available here and anywhere abroad for all dining spends. It is a special some on-line perks to recognize Infinity subscriber's penchant to simple as many now, meeting and well-known dining establishments as they can, before satisfy their appetite for tasty food offerings as well as more for enjoyment.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

Defend yourself from rude collection agents

Contacting the cardholder at unreasonable/inconvenient time, (i.e. before 6 a.m. or after 10 p.m.) unless the credit cardholder has given permission to do so, or account is past due for more than 60 days is considered an unscrupulous act in collecting credit cards due.

By Joel V. Nigos

Are you having difficulties in paying your credit card debt?

If you find that you are in trouble paying your credit card bills, contact your credit card company immediately. Try to work out a modified payment plan that reduces your payables to a more manageable level. Don't wait until your account gets turned over to a collection agency, it helps to know that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas the regulations set in the Collection Practices require that credit collection agencies treat you fairly and prohibit certain methods of debt collection. Specifically, BSP Circular No. 454 dated Sept. 20, 2004, "provides that subsidiary/affiliate credit card companies, collection agencies, counsels and other agents may resort to all reasonable and legally permissible means to collect accounts due from under the credit card agreement. However, in the exercise of their rights and performance of duties, they must observe good faith, reasonable conduct and refrain from engaging in unconscionable or unreasonable acts. The following are considered as violations of this regulation:

1. Use of threat of violence or other criminal means to harm the physical person, reputation or property of any person;

2. Use of obscenities, insults or profane language which amount to a criminal act under applicable laws;

3. Disclosure of the names of credit cardholders to others (e.g. embarrassment) who allegedly refuse to pay debts;

4. Threats to take any action that cannot be legally taken;

5. Threats to communicate to any person false credit information, including failure to communicate that a debt is being disputed;

6. False representations or deceptive means to collect any debt or to obtain information concerning a cardholder, or;

7. Contacting the cardholder at unreasonable/inconvenient time, (i.e. before 6 a.m. or 10 p.m. unless the credit cardholder has given permission to do so, or account is past due more than 60 days.

Other laws, rules and regulations on credit cards include the following:

Act 8484 (Access Devices Regulation Act) dated Feb. 11, 1998.

Section 9 requires that:

Any application to open a credit card account for any person under an open-end credit plan or a solicitation to open such an account, either by mail, telephone or other means, shall disclose the following information in writing or orally as the case may be:

- The annual percentage rate;
- The amount of any annual fees and other fees;
- A detailed explanation of method used in determining the balance upon which the finance charge is computed; and,
- Any fee imposed for accommodation of credit in the form of cash.

Sec. 4 states that:

If a cardholder who abandons or surreptitiously leaves his/her residence, place of business or employment stated in his/her credit card application, without informing the bank or credit card company where he/she could be contacted, and if at the time such is abandonment or surreptitious leaving, the outstanding and unpaid balance is past due for at least 90 days and is more than P10,000 shall be prima facie presumed to have used his/her credit card with intent to defraud.

Manual of Regulations for Banks and Manual of Regulations for Non-Bank Financial Institutions require that:

- No late payment or penalty shall be collected unless collection is fully disclosed in the contract between the issuer and the cardholder;
- Late payment or penalty fees may be based on the unpaid minimum monthly amount or a prescribed minimum fixed amount;
- Total late payment or penalty fees charged based on the total outstanding balance of the credit card obligations, including finance charges payable under the above terms or deferred payment schemes, if the contract between the issuer and the cardholder contains "acceleration clause".

Requires credit card companies to ensure confidentiality of information of cardholders' except under the following circumstances:

- Disclosure of information is with the consent of the cardholder;
- Release, submission or exchange of customer information with other financial institutions, credit information bureaus, credit card issuers, their subsidiaries and affiliates;
- Upon order of the court of competent jurisdiction or any government office or agency so authorized by law, or under such conditions as may be prescribed by the Monetary Board;
- Disclosure to collection agencies, counsels and other agents of the bank or card company to enforce its rights against the cardholder.
- Disclosure to other third party service providers solely for the purpose of assisting or endowing services to the bank or card company in the administration of its credit card business;
- Disclosure to third parties such as insurance companies, solely for the purpose of insuring the bank from cardholder default or other credit card loss, and the cardholder from fraud and unauthorized charges.

Partnerships bring a host of benefits to card holders

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

Competition gives cardholders more than rewards

From page F3

The rewards of Mabuhay Miles MasterCard

Three Reasons to SMILES

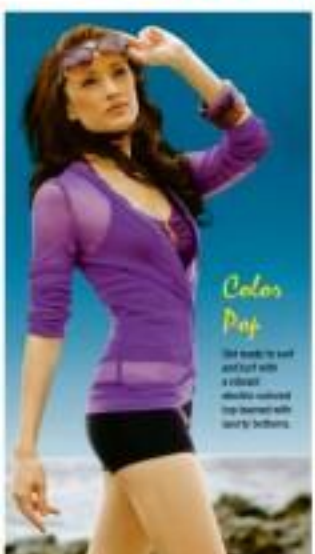
mabuhay MILES

ALLIED BANK

LIFESTYLE

A lot to love this SUMMER
at Robinsons Department Store

Robinsons Department Store ensures your fashion score soars high as the temperature rises this season. There's something for everyone in the family to love!



2-pc swimwear, Sassa, P689.75; cardigan, Never Been Kissed, P350.00; eyewear, Hawaiian, P269.75; beaconlets, Filip Zinc, P249.75 to P599.75

Tropical Prints

Inspired from nature's flora coupled with a modern silhouette in daring red, this is the perfect dress for sultry escapades.

Dress, Mng, P1,199.75; pumps: Jacks, P7,495.00; belt, Stuffhaven, PPF.75; bracelet, Hip Chic, P299.75

Luxe Graphic

Charmingly rounded, striped bandeau skirt glams up your party look.

Tube, Mng, Pa99.75; exercise shirt, Never Been Kissed, P350.00; shoes, Jacks, P7,495.00; ring, Vanity, P150.00

Top trends to love

Greet the summer sun with these essential trends as worn by Maricar Reyes

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Versatile Denims

Play up your denim top with graphic skirt to brighten your summer look.

Denim polo, U.R.U., P599.75; skirt, Fab, P388.88; bracelet, Vanity, P299.75

Graphic Illusion

Brave abstract-inspired graphic tees make for an easy-breezy combo. Top this look with funky polka-dot suspenders.

Polo shirt, B + Active, P279.75; pants, Grizzly, P759.75; rubber shoes, Pilarcyas, P759.75; suspenders, Phyllis, P395.75

Ruffles and Plaid

Pair trendy pieces with basics to balance out an edgy look. Tuxedo flares are hip additions—flowy brooches, bright sweaters and frilly scarves.

ON TATIANA: Tank top, Sprinkles, P289.75; skirt, Scalopy, P469.75; shoes, Bartek, P699.75; belt, Sunflowers, P99.75; scarf, Robinsons, P399.85

ON HOLDEN: Plaid polo, Garfield, P689.75; cargo pants, Grizzly, P759.75; rubber shoes, Pilarcyas, P759.75; hat, Grizzly, P299.75

Pretty in Floral

Breathe summer days with a floral bubble frock teamed with khaki vest

Bubble dress, Grizzly, P679.75; sleeveless jacket, Shopgroup, P875.75; gladiator sandals, Bartek, P899.75; bracelet, Hip Chic, P395.75; headband, Rose, P299.75

Pretty Little Things

Let your kids vacation in style with cool garbs from Robinsons Department Store---preppy plaids, pretty graphic prints, a pop of bright shades, and a whole lot of bows and ruffles

Preppy Classics

Take a cool oil pastel-colored polo shirt paired with basic khaki. Finish the look with a chic bowtie à la Chuck Bass.

Polo, Garfield, P629.75; shorts, B + Active, P399.75; sneakers, Pilarcyas, P759.75; bowtie , Mario Cardin, P199.75

Charming Pastels

Let them play dress up in charming light blues and cool hues of purple and fuchsia.

ON HOLDEN: Polo shirt, Mouse Gear, P579.75; shorts, Mouse Gear, P699.75; rubber shoes, Pilarcyas, P749.75; handkerchief, Armando Caruso, P29.75

ON TATIANA: Denim dress, Bebus, P699.75; blazer, Dwells, P999.75; necklace, Hip Chic, P450.00; sandals, Bartek, P469.75

Pink Power

Shelling spells comfy sweet like hoodie shirt and flower headband.

Tank top, Sprinkles, P169.75; skirt, Wheaten, P289.75; sandals, Bartek, P899.75; headband, Angelonics, P199.75

Folklore

Mix your traditional pieces with cropped khakis and pair with plaid top for a chicer appeal.

Hat, Dressmore, P249.00; blazer, Wrangler, P599.75; polo, Penguin, P699.00; sneakers, Wrangler, P1,099.75

Utilitarian

Go for earthy colors and keep the look modern by highlighting the look with pops of color.

Polo, Billabong, P699.75; khaki shorts, Parasuco, P499.75; boxer shorts, Wallace, P220.75; loafers, Caterpillar, P4,799.00; socks, NBA, P149.75; backpack, Nautica, P699.75; shirt, Armando Cotton, P329.75; belt, Robinsons, P179.75;

Urban-chic

At Robinsons Department Store you can break your style and go for unorthodox way of dressing. Match neutrals and basics with grunge styling.

Preppy

Stick to simple tones and pair with various textures. Make your office wear work for you. Tuck your blazer with a cardigan for a more relaxed yet polished look.

Shirt, Parasuko, P329.75; denim jeans, Dickies, P1,399.75; cardigan, Bench, P1,125.75; shoes, Mario D' Boro, P1,099.75; socks, Armando Cotton, P129.75; flat hat, Dressmore, P344.00

Contrast

Feel the breeze in shades of blues and layer with different prints and textures.

Polo, Wrangler, P1,499.75; shorts, Billabong, P700.00; blazer, Chard & Cashmere, P280.00; shoes, Mario D' Boro, P899.75; eyewear, Bayleaf, P4,900.00

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Oscars live today on Velvet

THE 83RD Academy Awards, which honors the best films of 2010, airs live today on Silver Tilts Cable Channel (SCC) beginning 6:30 a.m. Subscribers on satellite on ASIA-CH9 at 10:30 a.m., with replay on Studio 23 tomorrow at 10:30 p.m. The awards, ceremonially referred to as the Oscars, takes place at the Kodak Theater in Los Angeles, California. Among the presenters are Halle Berry, Cate Blanchett, Sandra Bullock, Robert Downey Jr., Tom Hanks, Hugh Jackman, Scarlett Johansson and Bruce Willis/reports.

CLICK!

FILIPINMAKER Sherad Sayo (left) and producer Lilit Reyes are grateful that Berlin viewers appreciated "Halaw."

A 'Halaw' victory in Berlinale

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE MOVIES, producer Lilit Reyes recalled, came as a "sweet surprise."

Marian Rivera's "Halaw (Ways of the Soul)" won Special Mention from the Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema (Netpac) jury in the 61st Berlin International Film Festival on Saturday.

(The Netpac prize went to the Japanese film "Tsuruoka's Story," directed by Jun Takahisa.)

"Halaw," which was included in the Forum section, was also vying for the Caligari Filmbuhne and Amnesty International awards, Reyes related.

The "Halaw" contingent—composed of Reyes, Sayo and actress Shaina Isabel Lopez—was already preparing to go home when they received the good news on Saturday morning, to attend the afternoon ceremony for the independent juries.

A HALAW PIC

Sweet: 'I've had enough'

By Marinel R. Cruz

JOHN Lapus

COMEDIAN-TV host John Lapus says he is bent on filing a libel case against Jolibee Swaddlers to keep the reluctant radio show host from writing "irrelevant" stories about him.

Lapus intends to subside in his suit as respondents file irrelevance-related documents for which Jolibee writers a column, and ABS-CBN radio station dzMM, where the latter also has a radio program.

"Almost every year, Jolibee ako ni Juboy. Binubuwisa ko na lang," Lapus said during a press conference for his new movie "Who's That Girl," which will premiere in theaters on March 2. "Pero ngayon, hindi ko na kaya. Sobra na 'yung ginagawa nila."

He said what Swaddlers wrote is "too big lie." Lapus explained: "Sa sarsue daw, I was drunk and that I made a scene in a bar (The Library in Malate, Manila). Juboy also said a guy in the audience got so angry with me that he almost hit me with a beer bottle.

(MORE ON E2)

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIN — BY ED ARRIOLA

PUGAD BABOY — BY PIC JUNIOR

DICK TRACY

LOKSHOTTS — BY ELIZABETH CHONGUO

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

BIKO MACHINE — BY MANG ARRIOLA

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

TULDOK — BY RAMIR CELL

Lacking marketing opportunities as it is, with 1:00 AM to 4:00 AM (-30 PM Lesson hanggang dyan ako.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY You have a great ability to communicate and are at ease in the with great enthusiasm, rebellion. It is lively, physical humor that appeals to you most. You want to know more! You work an team. You also want attention! Sometimes you have to appear more child of life and the life fully. In fact, you always work hard at your something enjoyable.

Birthdays of: Katy Perry, actress; Jones Pardee, Rose Tico, Paul Simpson, Bollywood actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Because your birthday is a month away, this is the perfect time to contemplate about what you want your new year (birthday to birthday) to be all about. What's the plan, Stan?

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Many your increased popularity right now. Accept all invitations. Extend a few to new people yourself. Group situations will delight you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Because the Sun is bright in your favor, acting like a spotlight on you, people notice you more than usual. Furthermore, they think you look good. Will this?

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You have a strong desire to broaden your horizons and your appreciation of life. Therefore, where right now those can. If not, go back to school and learn something new.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) So as home work regarding changes you want to make and anything you want family relations. Just get this stuff out of the way!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Right now you have a wonderful opportunity to learn more about how you relate to others, especially partners and close friends. Discover your style. You can learn a lot.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You always feel better when you're part of a group. Get involved. Imagine you are offered job by your acknowledged "Libra" crowd and tightening really makes a difference for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You definitely to your time of year to take outings with children. Satisfy a whole or some sports. Visit a zoo. Work up your head, and have adventure.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) It's totally appropriate for you to be focused on family, family and your domestic scene. Interior and earthy projects are magnificent. It's a perfect time to fix what is broken.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Now you! Because of your days on accelerating. Don't step on them. And go with the flow!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) It's time to give extra thought to how you earn your money and how you spend your money—right now. Draw at you can work out a budget.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) With the Sun in your sign, of course you will attract favorable opportunities to you. People are attracted to you as well. That's when it means it's up to your "bliss" is the best?

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

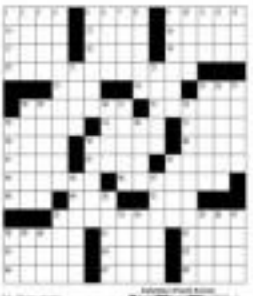
9	7	1	3	5	6	2	4	8
2	8	3	4	7	9	5	6	1
6	5	4	8	1	2	9	3	7
3	4	9	6	2	5	8	1	7
1	2	6	7	8	4	3	5	9
5	8	7	9	3	1	4	2	6
4	6	5	2	9	8	7	8	3
8	3	2	1	4	7	6	9	5
7	9	8	5	6	3	1	7	4

Concepts Sudoku By Dave Green

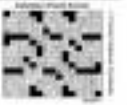
		1		9				
		7	6	4		3		
4	5	6		8			7	
	6				1			
3	4	9				8	2	1
			4				3	
	8			1		6	4	5
		4		6	2	7		
				7		1		

Difficulty Level ★ 2/28

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Saturday Puzzle Answers



A 'Halaw' victory in Berlinale

From page B1

After the fete, Lopez told Reyes and Dayao: "Our film found its audience in Europe."

Reyes recalled that the three screenings for "Halaw" in Berlin were "full."

"I think the venues could accommodate 700 to 900 people," Reyes said. "Most of the viewers were Europeans, but there were some Filipinos."

Each screening, Reyes recounted, was punctuated by "a round of applause and the viewers stayed for the open forum."

Real-life issues

Most of the questions centered on the social-life issues tackled in the film which tells the stories of different Filipinos crossing the Sulu Sea to enter Sabah, Malaysia, as migrants.

"They wanted to know more about the illegal trafficking of Filipinos. Some were curious about Ilustre's direct-to-id style. Overall, they praised the film's simplicity and visuals. I think it [Malaysian viewers' reaction] is for shedding light on the issue," said Reyes.

"It's not about the prestige; it's about owning and feeling the audience's appreciation," Reyes said. "Viewers flocked to for bringing this film to Germany. But I am more grateful because they allowed us to share this story with them."

One audience member even asked for a digital file of the film's theme song "Bahala ng Kanagarian (God of the Sea)," sung by artist John Arcilla.

The viewers lauded the cast members, both the pros and nonprofessionals.

One of the jurors told Reyes that, although all the dolan films were exceptional, the Nolasa prize was a toss up between the Japanese and the Philippine entries.

Another juror confirmed that, telling Reyes that she fought for "Halaw" during the deliberations.

"Berlin is among the top three film festivals in the world," Reyes remarked. "It's tough to penetrate and just to be included is a major triumph."

Reyes agreed: "It sounds like a cliché, but being selected made me feel like a winner already. It made me proud as a Filipino."

Her part is, the two FDCP-time films in this year's Berlin filmfester to Francis Xavier Pasion's "Imaginary Lover" in Generation Kplus) are both Cinemalaya winners and products of the Treehouse Script group under Armando Lao. Dayao and Reyes said.

This week, "Halaw" returned to the land of its birth, for screenings in Dayao's hometown Zamboanga City, for the Sinag-Maisdanon Reyes said.

What . . .

From page B4

ALBERT Martinez: "Change long overdue"

address who loosely defended our freedom are still poor and victims of mentally restraint generals. Ang isang malaya ng Edsa at kalayaan mula sa gutom at kahirapan."

ERGODOMO

BAMBEE: "I was 5 years old then. But as I was growing, I felt the spirit of Edsa; growing in me as well. This is the reason why we are reaping the benefits of democracy now because our forefathers and heroes fought for it together with the power of the people. On its 25th year, the world is being joined for the present generation. Now it's time to show the world again that in unity, everything is possible."

All-news channel

GMA News TV begins its broadcast today on free TV Channel 11, with hourly newscasts, live coverage, in-depth documentaries, reality programs and investigative shows from its no. till 12 midnight.

The all-news infotainment channel opens with "Dahil Ito Ang News TV" hosted by Mike Enriquez and introduces from the network's flagship radio station dzBB.

Jessica Soho anchors the evening newscast "Show of the Stories with Jessica Soho" and leads the team of "Imbestigador" reporters.

Other programs include "Bahin Pilipinas" with Arnold Clavio, "Good News" with Vicky Morales, "Pamilihouse" with Mel Tiangco, "Sweet ang Pasasaya kay Marsing Pineda" with Private Moment and "Investigative Documentaries" with Mahar Mangahas.

E-mail nestoringhoho@yahoo.com

Sweet . . .

From page B1

These are all false. He wrote the column as if he was actually there."

Lopez also said Andrew is dead. The Library current and another talent, Phillip Lucero, have appeared on television to deny Sandhu's entry. "These are credible people. They won't tell lies. People can even ask the readers there if it really happened. Bitaw-ang ang joke. Where did Jolson get his info?"

In Sweetlines column on Feb. 22, he said he was standing by his report. Sandhu insisted that he personally talked with a customer named Ilko, who admitted that he almost attacked Lopez for telling dirty jokes.

"I will defend the truth hanggang sa huling hibla ng hubo't hubad," Sandhu said. "Obviously to defend myself and my work as a journalist."

'Irresponsible journalism'

Lopez stressed that the Sandhu report was "a classic case of irresponsible journalism." He sounded his lawyer, who, he said, told him, "The headline alone is libelous."

Lopez said there was once a time when he met with Peter Mayuga, ABS-CBN vice president for radio, to ask for help to make Sandhu stop "fabricating" him.

The Sandhu issue said it will issue a statement this week. Vice president for operations Jose Almonte said a consultation with the company lawyer has been set.

Sandhu, in a phone interview on Friday said, "I have evidence to back me up. My credibility is important to me. (Lopez) is a public property. He should make sure nothing negative about him comes out in the papers. It's not right to threaten writers with a libel case when you've said something you don't like."

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What does the Edsa revolution mean to you?

I HAVE always been apolitical. But Edsa People Power was beyond politics. It was impossible not to be moved by the solidarity that Pinoys showed the world 25 years ago.

I was a first-time mom back in 1986 when the Edsa Revolution broke out. I was worried about leaving my 6-month old daughter Rhonchi at home at the height of the chaos so I was glad to the TV set as the historic event unfolded.

As soon as President Cory took her oath, my mom was busy connecting Kris Aquino, whom she invited to her show, "Imbes Time." That guest appearance of Kris remains to be the highest-rating in Philippine TV history.

A quarter of a century later, what does the Edsa phenomenon mean to celebrities? Where were they when it all happened? Let's step in the time game and see how the lesson that was Edsa—E-xtraordinary O-uplay of U-nidentity and S-trust.

KRIS AQUINO: "It's as it means freedom and love of country. I remember sleeping on the street in Salcedo Edsa using my body to block the tanks, sending the crowd, praying. I remember Maj. Gen. Antonio Sanchez bullcapers flying on Juan Ponce Enrile's first broadcast warned us that those are not friendly forces and there will be bombing. We saw the soldiers inside the choppers turning the Laban sign. Hanubhanu! sila. Yet another reason to proclaim that God is good!"

JOEY REYES: "It was a life-changing event not only for the country but the world. People Power redefined the role of each citizen in actively shaping the destiny of our country. To this day, I proudly say that I was there on Edsa 25 years ago."

BOBBIE PALAD: "Edsa Revolution is a national recovery. It restored our freedom and democracy. I remember our UP group was asked over the radio to go to Edsa to block the tanks heading towards MIG-4 (MIG 21bis). I was inside the studio when the bluescum left the scenary. People Power reminds me of the nameless struggles and triumph of the Filipino people in restoring faith in the institutions of democracy in the country. It healed a broken nation. Its refuge ang Pinoy ang naglalaro or mapanuno ano. I'm proud to tell my nephews and nieces that during the revolutions when the Dionys were out in the streets to restore our freedom, to marvel what the cost, I was there."

JOEY Reyes: "Life-changing event"

MR. IPO: "I was very young back then. I was just happy because classes were suspended and I had fun time with my friend. I just realized the essence of People Power years after. It makes me proud as a Filipino. I wish I was there. Ramdam sa lang ako at sinerago ko ng the recent Edsa celebrations at ang yellow sets ako bilang tribute. Miss ganon!"

PINKY AMADOR: "People Power means we can change our destiny but it also means we need to be even more vigilant ever. When Anne broke out about the revolution, I was doing a summer play, "Whodunnit." Bigay yung role ng play sa cast of characters ng drama sa Edsa that time."

ALBERT MARTINEZ: "I was monitoring the progress of the revolution back then. It was the change long overdue and freedom we Pinoys had been yearning for."

CHRISTINE REMULLA-BARAO: "I was 16 then. From day 1 of Edsa, I was on the streets. I prepared sandwiches and drinks at home and gave it to the soldiers. Today, these very same

KRIS Aquino: "Love of country"

PINKY Amador: "Vigilance"

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ENTERTAINMENT

And now for our annual 'canonization' —The Oscars

By Cinemirma Tijara
Contributor

FOR THE OSCAR Best Picture race this year, the big themes are impressive. In "127 Hours," it is the will to live, or the triumph of the human spirit. How the Iñarritu-esque genre under pressure is literally illustrated under the wide indifferent sky.

It is a one-character, one-situation movie—how can one tell this story for nearly two hours without resorting to the inevitable flashbacks and the hallucinatory montage? Thus the filmmaker fills the time while sustaining the tension by interspersing the fixed attention with MTV-style rapid shooting through the character's febrile imagination, a gratifying response drenched with the aesthetics of the TV commercial and the rock video.

It is possible to be a Boyle movie without the obligatory gross-out scene, but the clinical taboo in the world (for time, but something more gut-wrenching.

In the Coens' (if, marginally, "True Grit" is the least that we mention up as (our favorite is "The Big Lebowski"), largely because the original is still vivid in our memory. Imagine a remake of "Casablanca."

That's why my question the necessity of this remake. It doesn't give us the sense of adventure and fun, poignancy and exhilaration of the original. It's just plain bleak. Even the funny lines don't sound as funny. It may be more faithful to the grittiness of the Charles Portis fiction novel but it's not as rousing as the Henry Hathaway movie.

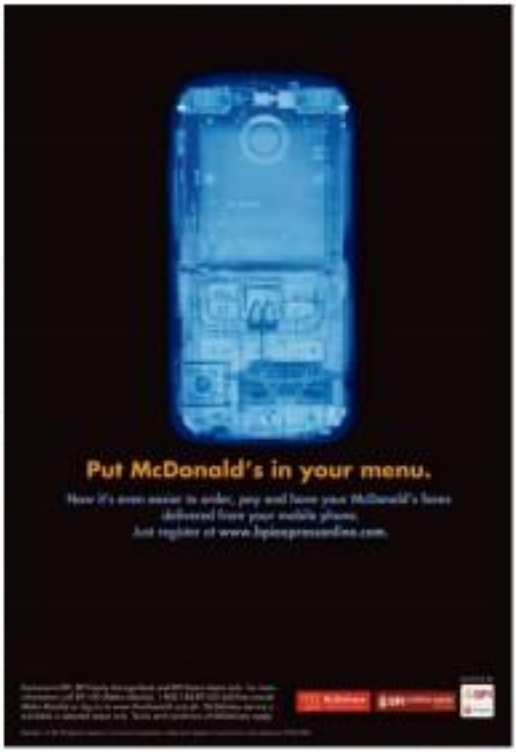
Reinhold gains inside Darby, as does Bridges beside the John Wayne prototype. As villains, Josh Brolin and Barry Pepper can never be as repellent as Dennis Hopper and Robert Duvall.

The one thing going for this movie is Roger Deakins' cinematography. While the original looks monkery here it's a wintry landscape (Such are on and else in Arkansas), but the landscape is just there.

Matthew Libatique's work on "Black Swan" is more inventive, more demanding on the

MORE

HELENA Bonham Carter and Colin Firth in "The King's Speech," "a well-made crowd pleaser, conventional in form, conservative in idea."



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And now for our annual...

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cinematographer's craft.

Ignored by the Academy but we like it best, is Wilmot Zaijmund's mark on "You Will Meet a Tall, Dark Stranger." Zaijmund has brought to this film his relentless use of vivid colors and surreal lighting in "Heaven's Gate," "The Deer Hunter" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind.")

"Black Swan" is a lucid retelling of Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake," with roles corresponding to the ballet characters of the Swan Queen, the Prince, the Queen, the Black Swan, the Dying Swan. It certainly traces the descent into madness that ostensibly has necessarily explored ("Ft." "Requiem for a Dream").

Here the paranoia takes on such outrageous, the hallucinatory visions and heightened emotions literally expressed in so many images, that the whole becomes overwrought and the film is reduced into a horror flick. At it turns out, this is not only the year's "The Taking Point," it is also its "Carrie."

It is entertaining psychodrama, nonetheless. It's just too bad its high minded theme of the artist's quest for perfection is lost to all the razzmatazz, false alarms and grotesqueries. This is oddball cinema, just "Alfredo," pan Wes Craven.

"Inception" is about corporate raiding conducted in the unconscious, through dreams, so complex that the viewer has to spend some time peeling off the narrative, layer by layer. It is rampant with breathtaking action sequences and visual effects, in that department, it is this year's "Avatar."

(No matter how much we're recommend by such movies, however, we don't really want to compare greatness of images.)

"The King's Speech" leads with 12 nominations. This being British, the emphasis on social structure and class hierarchy is strong. Witness the transitions of the Queen Mother, and with what savagery commoner Wallis Simpson is put in her place.

It is a well-made crowd-pleaser, conventional in form, conservative in ideas, plus it's fun—it's the kind that stirs no hearts. (Think "Gandhi." Think "Chariots of Fire." Think "Oliver!") And this being a popularity contest, it is likely to grab the award.

Great achievements

"The Social Network," about the founding of Facebook at a Harvard dorm in 2004, is no edgier stuff. It covers more dangerous ground and takes the viewer right over the edge.

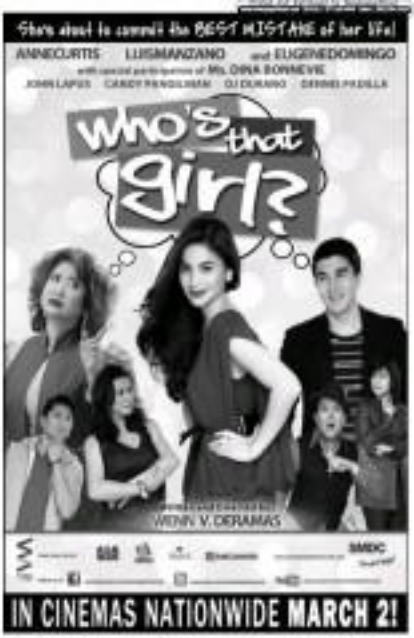
As piece of cinema, its greatest achievement is taking a dull and banal subject and turning it into a first rate thriller, as some after events unfold to reveal duplicity, back-stabbing, double-dealings.

Another of its many achievements is how a fragmentary narrative, with three layers of plot (restricted competition with two deposition hearings) and a speed speaker as main character, is told through frenetic editing and still comes out lucid and intact. The film has numerous characters with so many dialogues, their fragmented lives further broken down to fragmentary scenes, yet everything coheres.

The Final scene comes with

A10 ▸

LEONARDO DiCaprio in "Inception," this year's "Avatar."



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5: FROM PRADA TO NADA
6: JUST GO WITH IT
7: BLACK SWAN

GREENBELT 1
1: UNKNOWN
2: I AM NUMBER FOUR

GREENBELT 3
1: UNKNOWN
2: I AM NUMBER FOUR (DD)
3: TRUE GRIT
4: DRIVE ANGRY (DD)
5: BLACK SWAN

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: UNKNOWN
2: I AM NUMBER FOUR (DD)
3: DRIVE ANGRY (DD)
4: FROM PRADA TO NADA
5: BLACK SWAN

ARANETA CENTER CYBERPLEX
1: I AM NUMBER FOUR
2: BLACK SWAN
3: DRIVE ANGRY (DD)
4: UNKNOWN

MAGALLANES
1: I AM NUMBER FOUR
2: DRIVE ANGRY (DD)
3: UNKNOWN
4: BLACK SWAN

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2: I AM NUMBER FOUR
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JEFF Bridges and John Goodman in "The Big Lebowski," a big favorite from the Coens.

PAGE 2 FROM PAGE 1

And now...

From page 6

the flash and clash of revelation. (Inspiring the extreme isolation of the founder of Facebook, it shows Zuckerberg opening an account on the website for the first time, looking for human connection. The supreme irony is, the man who created the social networking site so effusive the loneliness of people is revealed to be the loneliest man of all, asexual, if not exactly a sociopath.

This ending is tragic, in the classical sense. In fact, the film explores the major themes of the tragedies, both Shakespearean and Greek: ambition and greed, friendship and betrayal, arrogance, hatred, envy with the class structure an agency of destiny.

Yet analogy, "The King's Speech" would belong to a cinema de papa of the '50s, an old-style film of the quality (ambition, despised by the New Wave, "The Social Network," to the Hollywood Renaissance of the '70s, that golden age of mediocrity and downbeat ending, its cinematic art and piece of theater, the latter appeals to us more.

Certainly the most enjoyable is "Toy Story 3," about the further adventure of Woody, Buzz Lightyear and co., plus Ken and Barbie. The situation here is more complicated than the last, the story line more expansive, the visual effects more dazzling, the cops more humanized.

But we can't follow the logic of leaving this nominated for Best Picture as well as for Best Animated Feature. So sets over "How to Train Your Dragon" and "The Illusionist" in a foregone conclusion—and what if it wages an upset in the main category? Hicking two birds with one stone?

Such reasoning would be justifiable only if there's a total revamp. Best Motion Picture would have to be replaced with Critics' Choice Best Picture should be called Audience Award. Then Hollywood rebuttons would stop tabulating the ars.

So on with the show. Let's even one Eugene Hutz nomination for Academy awards one or two that will eventually become certified classics, or at least won't leave us tongue-tied.

JOSH Brolin in "True Grit" has to live up to the John Wayne standard.

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LEARNING

Editor Chelo Bunal Formoso

More on Tiger Moms in Eureka! / J3

PVB-PDI partnership wins an Anvil J4

Mentoring the mentors

Teaching kids to mind their money

By Nina Jesusmina M. Ocampo

FOR MANY children, buying the latest gadget or upgrading to the next level of the hottest computer game is what having money is all about.

How would children saving or buying something they truly needed.

As Marco Polo Institute executive director Marivi Montero said, most children should be taught saving, rather than their needs. "Some of them would rather play Dota (the name of the fantasy computer game) than buy snacks," she said.

In view of this, library programs director Soledad Reyes said, children should be taught saving, using money wisely and other related values. However, she said, these concepts should not only be taught at home but also even learned in school.

To help teachers, specifically teachers, integrate financial education to various subjects, Citibank, the biggest foreign bank in the country, and Marco Polo Institute recently (the Money Matters Teachers' Workshop). Using the "Money Matters for Kids!" storybook, participants shared with, and learned from, colleagues strategies to get children started on the road to financial literacy.

The workbook, written by Dana Sandoval of Fernando Corporate and Social Responsibility executive officer Nina Purcell, offers lessons on money, from its history to the ways of earning and spending it wisely.

But, Montero said, although the storybook was the main resource material, "the children's voice is important in the book. We want teachers to draw ideas on how to integrate lessons on money with the subjects they handle."

A total of 92 fourth grade teachers from 11 Manila city public elementary schools attended the workshop recently. Fourth graders were targeted because children at this stage, Montero said, could already grasp the value of money.

TEACHERS from different school districts of Manila learn how to participate on earning, saving and sharing money at the Citibank workshop.

INTERACTIVE exhibit exposes kids to ATM and money concepts.

BSBP has colorful history of piggy banks at the Museo exhibit.

Money to share

Recent, video makers Filipino, EPP (Edukasyong Pantahanan at Pangkabuhayan) and Hekasi (Araling Panlipunan at Hekasi Ilaw) topics, Kanawayan at Ishi Ani, said her group learned their presentation on the chapter on "Using Money to Help Others."

Another group presented their take on the soap opera "Mara Clara." In the humorous version, Mara and Clara received P1,000 each. While her mommy, Mara was able to buy eight items and still had P170 left while Clara managed to buy only two. The group concluded Mara spent her money wisely because she was able to buy more.

The group of Jason Labbao of Delpan Elementary School said he learned from the workshop ways to teach lessons that students would use in their daily activities.

Montero said the program aimed to make it a habit for children to share, save, and spend money wisely. By teaching teachers to integrate lessons on money into academics, more children would gain financial literacy.

At the end of the activity, teachers received certificates and workbooks. Each of their schools also got eight workbooks.

Aside from the teachers' workshop, Citibank has also promoted financial literacy in the country by organizing with Museo Pambata "Money Matters for Kids!" interactive exhibit, which confers children about the different currencies around the world, shopping within a budget, using an automated teller machine (ATM) to learn such concepts as withdrawal and deposit, among other things.

Citibank is looking for a permanent home for the exhibit.

The financial literacy projects were funded by Citi Foundation and supported by Philippine Business for Social Progress and United Way.

MUSEO President Nina Lim Tuaño (left) shows off the children's new ideas she presents to complement the exhibit that Citibank corporate affairs director Ayesh Lim (right) says has reached thousands of kids.

Assignment: DepEd

DepEd signs anticorruption pact with partners

By Tara Yap

MANILA) To stop all forms of corruption within its ranks, the Department of Education has signed an integrity pact with business partners, suppliers and nongovernment organizations to purge old habits and tear all vestiges of bribery and graft.

Education Secretary Armin Luistro, who heads the country's largest bureaucracy, said more than 100 business partners and civic organizations made the "integrity pledge" to shun all forms of bribery and promote honesty and ethics in all business transactions.

Among the signatories were publishers, and school supplies and furniture contractors.

The partners vowed, "We will prohibit bribery in any form in all activities under our control and ensure that our charitable and political contributions, business gifts and sponsorships are transparent and will not be for the purpose of obtaining to influence the recipients, whether government or private, to an improper exercise of functions, duties or judgment."

By signing the agreement, they were expected to "lead by example and to operate our businesses ethically and with integrity."

Luistro said, "First, we must acknowledge that corruption erodes the moral fiber and impedes economic growth. Second, we must act responsibly by leading by example, thus, this integrity pledge which binds DepEd and the business groups to always observe ethical business practices and good corporate governance."

DepEd officials vowed to train their employees in ethical business practices and to "implement appropriate internal controls and sanctions that, both and eventually remove, unethical conduct to their companies.

Private sector participants also promised to adopt accurate and transparent financial reporting mechanisms in transactions involving government.

They vowed to encourage "fair market conditions" and share best practices.

Contractors were also encouraged to sign a similar integrity agreement with other government agencies that they did business with, particularly in the bidding for and procurement of supplies, materials, equipment and construction services.

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Playgrounds for the MIND

Member Schools

Feati University holds inter-school music competition for the environment

MORE THAN the loud beating of the drums and the energized crowd cheering for their respective bets, the "Tunog Kalusugan para sa Kalikasan" proved to be a perfect vehicle for a bigger cause. The seven bands that vied for musical supremacy helped rationale, if not instill, the importance of a greener environment.

The seven, held recently at the Mabini Bar in Quezon City, served as the university's highlight for 2010 of various environment-friendly activities. Among these are fashion show held last Jan. 26 wherein all the proceeds of which went to the rehabilitation of the La Mesa Watershed in Quezon City and the accompanying tree planting activity.

Organized by Feati University and Feati United Caravan Administration Society (Feats), and in co-production with TV Jesus, the event was also attended by students from Fatima University, Manila Business College, Asian Institute of Maritime Studies, Manuel L. Quezon University, Unibersidad de Manila and Manila Central University.

"This is another fresh way of stepping up to the call for the rehabilitation and preservation of our natural resources before the situation worsens. Students from various colleges and universities were encouraged to participate in taking care of the environment," said Bilimore Hernandez, head of Feati events and promotions.

Prophesy from Our Lady of Fatima University, with their original composition "Don't Be Afraid, a cover of "Broken Wings," took home the grand trophy, a TV Jesus contract and P10,000. The band also got the first MTV award, with an additional P3,000 from Jolo DR. Manila Business College's Royal "Iyonic" took home P6,000 while Asian Institute of Maritime Studies' Banana Type pocketed the P3,000 third prize.

Other bands that joined the competition were reflexation (Manuel L. Quezon University), Nine Eye (Unibersidad De Manila), Lucero and Friends (Manila Central University), and Peach-eyes (wala, bahal.

Special awardees were Prophesy's Francis Ann Tenes (Best Vocalist), Banana Type's Robinson Nonatos (Best Drummer) and Infamonata's late reviewer Jonas De Guzda (Best Guitarist), Mar Lubao (Best Keyboardist), and Michael Labandor (Best Bassist).

The panel of judges was composed of AWC sports analyst Bill Velasco, former executive producer of MTV Philippines and GMA 7 Network Active Contributing, TV Jesus marketing director Sherry Sinsuphanes, singer Ann Mellina and TV Jesus's executive producer and director Carlos "Bong" Agustin.

CHIEF JUSTICE CORONA SWEARS IN BENITEZ AS NINTH PRESIDENT OF PWU

CHIEF Justice of the Supreme Court Renato Corona (middle) administers the oath to Lourdes Dimaranan-Benitez as the ninth president of the Philippine Women's University, with daughter Diana holding the Bible as Arsi Philippines International Convention Centers Holding Corp. exec. Erwin Ichi, Commissioner Dr. Nona Nicolasora of the Commission on Higher Education, who led the ceremonies, Dr. Gloria Ruiz of the Department of Education, PWU board trustee Concordio Bautista, PWU board vice chair Dr. Manuel Alba, fellow trustees and board of visitor Eddie Ilan.

MCU stages second sports invitational

SEVEN SCHOOLS from Caloocan and Quezon City participated in the second staging of the Manila Central University (MCU) Invitational Tournament. High school boys basketball and girls volleyball and grade school boys basketball events were played at the MCU Centennial Gym. The annual MCU sports event is held to encourage camaraderie and cooperation among schools in Caloocan City and nearby communities. The seven schools were MCU, Notre Dame of Greater Manila, Wonder Child College, St. Patrick's School of Navotas Inc., Ramon Magsaysay High School, St. Mary's Academy and Systems Plus Computer College. Notre Dame romped off with the championships in high school and grade school basketball while Ramon Magsaysay won the high school volleyball crown.

Southville stades off to US for exchange program

SHE COLLEGE students of Southville International School and Colleges will participate in the 2010 Work and Travel Program starting March 4 to June 30. They are Kathleen Lorenzo (All Mass Communications) who is assigned at the Center on International Education Exchange in Portland, Lorna Delos Reyes and Kydlin Takeuchi (Public at Dollar Point Amusement Park in Ohio; Abegail Marielle Delino (BS IT) at Kings Dominion in Virginia; Elizabeth Syquia (HRDM) at Bargain Boardwalk in South Carolina and Ann Macapobre who is assigned at Hershey Park in Pennsylvania. The Work and Travel Program is a cultural exchange program of the US State Department that allows current full-time college students to enter the US and have a about six million while working in a private company during the summer break.

Westfields Int'l School celebrates School Week

THE Westfields International School community in Angeles City celebrated its annual School Week last Feb. 14 to 18. The week-long event was packed with activities that showcased and entertained the school community. The line-up of shows included a Love Dance, Fashion Show, Makeover Contest, Magic Show, Talent Show and other exhibits. Students and parents also prepared a variety of outdoor activities with the Chess Dance Competition, Sports Fest, Booths and Fun Run as highlights.

UST Quadricentennial Celebration

THE OBSERVANCE/SYMPOSIA Celebration of the University of Santo Tomas is marked with an impressive list of international conferences and national conventions. Celebrated are the 1st Nursing Students International Research Conference, March 2011; Promarian and Asian Catholic Celebrating 400 Years of Dialogue Across Civilization, May 23-26; Global Conference on Ethics in Science and Technology, Oct. 25-27; Southeast Asian Conference in Medical Physics, Oct. 23-25; Asian Women Forum: Seeding Cultures of Peace and Development, Nov. 24-26; 19th World Congress of the International Society of Dermatology and Dry Eye Nov. 30 to Dec. 2; Pre Exclusa (Fr. Pro Patria: Legacy and Tradition of a Quadricentennial University, Dec. 1-3; and the 8th Pan Pacific Biennial Conference on Rehabilitation, October 2011. Slated National Conferences: 51st Annual Convention of the Philippine Association of Academic Rheumatist, April 28 to May 1; Mathematical Society of the Philippines Annual Convention, May 16-20; Dissecting Hotel Laryngectomee Fistula, Sept. 15-18; Special Consultation on the Role of the University in the Anti-Poverty Alleviation in the 21st Century, Sept. 24; Pambansang Seminar-Workshop sa Pagsasalin ng Kaalaman sa Wika at Pagbabag Gagos (Part 2), October 29-1; and Philippine Society of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology Annual Convention, October 2011.

LPU scores three-peat in Cisco competition

IN A show of outstanding skills, competing teams from San Sebastian Recoletos-Cavite, ARAOS-Sta Cruz, Laguna, MANGE Lucena and Lyceum of the Philippines University Batangas battled it out in the Cisco World's recently. Two teams of LPU Batangas Members exhibited teamwork and collaboration skills and dominated the two levels of testing - a multiple choice online exam and an online skills exam using Packet Tracer (a computer simulation of real-world networks). The national category was participated by Team 1 Villamonte Apolinario Lovern Loretto Sandrino and Reine Sarmy Gamosa Abegail. Contestants in the advance category were canteen Vital Bonifacio, Jaycee Pedregosa and Christian Villapando. The LPU Members were awarded the regional championship for three consecutive years since 2008. The two teams will advance to the national competition in Pampanga.

CCP prepares for April scholarship exams

THE CCP has, College of the Philippines is preparing to conduct the examinations for this year's U.S. Reyes Scholarship Program in April. Amounting to about P10 million worth of assistance for deserving students, the scholarship package covers six multiple levels with the graduated scale of benefits and entitlements. The top-ranked scholars will receive the tuition and miscellaneous fees for their course plus a monthly stipend. High school graduates finishing with a grade point of at least 82% in English, Science and Mathematics, along with other criteria, will be considered for slots in the competitive examinations. The final dates for the scholarship examination will be announced sometime in March. For inquiries, call the CCP Admissions Office at 832-1125 to 26 to 29, local 134, e-mail admissions@ccp.edu.ph.

UPH, BACOOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT INK MOA

THE local government of Bacoor, Cavite led by Mayor Strike Revilla and Vice Mayor Lani Mercado-Revilla and 2nd District Representative Lani Mercado-Revilla (third from right) is joining hands with the University of Perpetual Help System Dalta through its president Anthony Teresita Leonard Tantoco, 1994 Law Pillar City campus school director Loreto Alfonso (left) and Bacoor campus school director Reino Bayot (right) for a community outreach program seen to benefit students of UPH and constituents in the bustling city of Cavite. The memorandum of agreement (MOA) was signed at the Bacoor municipal ground last Feb. 14.

FCCP to support scholars at Far Eastern University

THE FRIENDS for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines (FCCP), a non-profit organization of civic leaders and artists dedicated to the promotion of the country and to support the education of young and talented artists, recently entered into an agreement with far Eastern University (FEU), through its President's Committee on Culture (PCC), to support scholars from different cultural groups from the university. The PCC nurtures five university-based cultural groups namely the FEU Santrons Band, Chorale, Dance Company, Drum and Bugle Corps and Theater Guild. Although FEU provides scholarships and monetary incentives to members of these groups, FCCP will give financial support for three other academic needs. FCCP will sponsor one scholar from each cultural group each semester. The FEU Auditorium serves as the venue for various cultural events which benefit, entertain and educate FCCP members.

CLSU sweeps three national quiz bee titles

THE CENTRAL Luzon State University College of Veterinary Science and Medicine (CVSM) grabbed the top three spots during the 39th National Congress of Veterinary Medicine Students (NCVMS) held recently at Benguet State University, La Trinidad, Benguet. The congress was participated in by 13 schools all over the country. CLSU clinched the top spot during the 16th National Veterinary Round-up Quiz Bee sponsored by the Isabela City Philippines Inc. at the last day of the congress. The team was composed of Ernie Jay Balagan, 4th year DVM student, and Lester Gonzales and Adriane Macalintal, 3rd year DVM students. The CLSU team of the congress was extended by grabbing both the championship and second place in the 1st National Mentalympics Quiz Bee sponsored by the Independent Study Organization of students held on the same day. The champion team was composed of Justin Gonzales and Jephzeneth Pascua while the second place winners were Felicia Macalintal and Evelyn Gadiza. In the third quiz, CLSU dominated the 1st National Zootechnics and Parasitology Quiz Contest of the Xavierian Knights Fraternity. Gonzales, Pascua and Victor Nicolas, accompanied by Pascua and Mark Anthony Gabriel emerged champions under the team of Errol Jay Balagan, Justin Gonzales and Felicia Macalintal placed second.

UE GS conducts lecture on Forensic Auditing

THE UNIVERSITY of the East Graduate School (UE GS) recently featured two international anti-corruption crusaders in a lecture on "Forensic Auditing" at the UE Conference Hall. Speaking before an audience of UE academic and administrative officials, faculty members, graduate students from other institutions - former Georgia State Senator James F. Mullaney, Jr. and USAID's Dr. Pablo S. Fadrilan discussed this offbeat theme of forensic auditing in detection of fraud and other financial related crimes, to obtain pieces of evidence to identify individuals involved, measure the magnitude of the crime, and in the presentation of evidence to ensure successful criminal litigation. Mullaney stated that need for forensic auditing to enable countries to cope with anti-corruption measures. Fadrilan also stressed the important role audit plays in encouraging competition as, accordingly to him, people can be influenced by policy to act ethically and morally. Then, organizations that "create an honest environment may indirectly foster by rewarding that ambassador-minded investors either domestic ones." Being audited is one such unfavorable incentive, according to Fadrilan.

CEU's symposium on environmental awareness

THE CENTRAL Luzon University Social Sciences Society recently held its symposium at the Lilibeth Bonifacio Auditorium titled Kalikhan Sustainability of Luzon Generation, Terminal "A need for social responsibility in the fight against climate change." The symposium aimed to raise awareness on the current issues and problems of the environment, show the importance of conserving natural resources and provide relevant information about proper waste management in the community. Invited speakers for the symposium were taken from the different government sectors of the province. Louise Sinagpulo from the National Water Resources Board talked about Water Conservation, Eduardo Bantad from the Department of Energy discussed Energy Conservation, and Patricia Loop from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources talked Waste Management.

Tiger Mom myths and reality

(Second of three parts)

LAST WEEK, we discussed the parenting style of Amy Chua, who has become infamous for the excerpt from her book "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother." Her treatment of daughters Sophia and Lulu while they were growing up, especially about playing the piano and violin, respectively, seems too authoritarian.

But Sophia played at Carnegie Hall at age 14, while Lulu was accepted as a student of a world-class violin instructor. Sophia declared in "Wall Street Journal" that she will be "forever grateful" for the strictness. Let us see if the assertions hold up to research and reality.

(Source: Y. Lee Chua)

Academic achievement equals successful parenting

"In one study of Western, non-Asian mothers and of the same immigrant mothers, almost 70 percent of Western mothers said either that 'stressing academic success is not good for children' or that 'parents need to foster the idea that learning is fun.' By contrast, only 0 percent of the Chinese mothers felt the same way. Instead, the vast majority of the Chinese mothers said that they believe their children can be 'the best' students, that academic achievement reflects successful parenting,' and that if children did not excel at school then there was a 'problem' and parents 'were not doing their job.'"

Research on four Asian virtues on achievement and parenting generally gives weight to what Chua says. In Confucian culture (China and its neighbors, Japan and Korea), education is given top priority by parents. This is rooted in ancient China where the only way for a commoner to improve his lot in life was to pass the civil service examinations.

Parents sacrificed literally everything for a promising son, and this attitude has been passed on through the ages to the Chinese immigrants, the present is known—the way to succeed in the adopted country is to do well in school.

Is this true to the Filipinos? In my grandparents' and parents' generations, yes. Parents expected children to excel in school and, with proper guidance, they succeeded.

My mother grew up a promising career in medicine to become her self-employer to no longer be for my classmates. Indians was not an option. Quite grandmother, all of us got accepted to—if not the first, then the second or third—universities of our choice.

Now, my coworkers are parents (second- or third-generation immigrants), and we have exhibited Parents values, for good or ill. Most Chinese-Filipino parents still demand high marks from their children. Unfortunately they are less willing to sacrifice personal time or effort for it.

Instead of tutoring their kids themselves, they delegate the chore to outsiders. The results are more mixed. When I started teaching in the late 1990s, it was not to see a student from a predominantly Chinese school flunk mathematics. Now it is no longer a rarity.

Practice begets fun

My mother never said learning was fun. Certainly constant drills and homework were not pleasurable for us—until we mastered the topic. Then things became actually "fun."

Close to right: What Chinese parents understand is that nothing is fun until you're good at it. To get good at anything, you have to work, and children on their own never want to work, which is why it is crucial to intervene their preferences. This often requires force on the part of the parents because the child will resist; things are always hardest at the beginning, which is where Western parents tend to give up. But, if done properly the Chinese training produces a virtuous circle. Tenacious practice, practice, practice is crucial for excellence; once repetition is understood in America. Once a child starts to excel at something—whether it's math, science, painting, or ballet—he or she gets praise, admiration, and satisfaction. This builds confidence and makes the once not-fun activity fun. This in turn makes it easier for the parent to get the child to work even more.

Research shows this to be true. Malcolm Gladwell in "Outliers" says, "Practice isn't the thing you do once you're good. It's the thing that makes you good." He recommends 10,000 hours of practice to become really really good. Westerners call this the concept of "the zone," where customary practice finally allows the child to enter a mode of effortless flow. A half-an-agile through the air, or play the piano flawlessly. Practice is essential to most activities and, unless guided to do so, children will resist, and nevertheless develop effective learning habits.

In my classes, the best students do not necessarily have high IQ (many of those with high IQ do not perform at the expected level and become "underachievers"), but those who, from an early age, constantly practice a variety of exercises, and avoid cramming or relying on intuition to do the work for them. When they receive high marks, then their hard work does become fun.

Improve yourself instead of blaming others

"If a child comes home with an A instead of a B+, a Western parent will most likely praise the child," Chua says. "The Chinese mother will gasp in horror at the B+ and will wonder what is wrong with the child and how he can get an A. It can be hell raising a child whom nothing is ever good enough for."

Amy Chua's book "The Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother" (Penguin) is available in National Book Stores.

E-mail the author at bbs-book@yahoo.com.

UP Mass Comm celebrates 46th anniversary

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines College of Mass Communications (UP CMC) will have a weeklong celebration of its 46th anniversary on March 1-6.

The CMC's 46th Foundation Week will launch the lecture series "New Directions in Communication and Media Studies." Victor Avendia of the Department of Broadcast Communication launches the series with "Updating Lines on the Media" on March 1, 2:30 p.m., CMC auditorium. A tour with will be held at 4 p.m.

On March 2, the deed of donation for 20 computers will be signed at 9 a.m. between the UP CMC Foundation and Thomson Reuters, donor of the equipment.

At 10 a.m., Reuters bureau chief John Blue will lecture on "Journalism: Challenges and Opportunities." He will analyze the coverage of recent events in the Middle East and show how new technologies like Twitter and Facebook changed reporting. He will also compare the Middle East events with the Edsa revolution 25 years ago.

Rockingmother Ruth Tofighian, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Cinema Studies at Stockholm University, presents his paper "From Cinema to Cinema: Early Talkies in the Netherlands as 'Southward Ideal'" at 2:30 p.m. at the CMC auditorium.

He will depict the historical connection of entertainment and art among Southeast Asian countries.

On March 3, 2:30 p.m., at the CMC auditorium, journalism professor Georgina Lorzano, former CMC dean, will lecture on "The Word of Times: The Best of Times: Challenges for Journalism Education."

CMC will have a recognition ceremony on March 4, 10 a.m., for outstanding students, faculty, staff and alumni at the CMC auditorium. There will also be a whole-day Career Opportunities Fair from 10 a.m.

Communication research professor Elena Pernia, another former dean, will deliver the lecture series on March 4, 2:30 p.m., with "Information and ICT Literacy and Issues."

The Department of Journalism will have a reunion of graduates March 5, 4 p.m., while the Department of Broadcast Communication will have its reunion on March 4, at 4 p.m.

Capping the foundation week is the CMC Student Council's "Great Pathway" at 6 p.m. Film Studio. Call 9206867.

(2ND L-R) Foundation president Grace Tan Catching and business unit president Simeon Tanmantiong hand over a miniature classroom to Secretary Armin Luistro. Others in photo are (left to right) Jollibee's Cohen Ngochua, Deanna and Albert Chuatoyco, Jollibee Foundation Foundation chair Dom Mongaya, foundation vice president Belen Alfiler and Jollibee Philippines president Joe Mirasol.

Jollibee to build 40 public school classrooms starting this year

JOLLIBEE WILL build up to 40 classrooms beginning 2011 under its Build-A-Classroom Project to help ease the country's classroom shortage.

Through the 15th Jollibee Bituin ng Pinoy Drive, the food chain raised funds from the Jollibee and Primrose Bells recently parents launched late last year.

Over 600,000 dollars were sold belonging to some 752 million. An additional 179 million will be donated by the Jollibee Foundation Association and the Jollibee Foundation to fund the construction of 40 classrooms.

Beneficiaries will be selected from the Department of Education's (DepEd) list of priority schools and partners in Jollibee Foundation's Brang, Lunog, Yahoo School Feeding program.

Jollibee vice president for marketing Albert Cuadrasmo said the overwhelming response of clients in their nearby offering was instrumental to jump-starting the Build-A-Classroom Project, a response to DepEd's call to help bridge the classroom gap in the country and provide more conducive places for learning.

Education Secretary Armin Luistro said the partnership with Jollibee would help alleviate the lack of public school classrooms. He added that the success of the monthly promo showed that Filipinos are willing to give what little they had to help others.

Finalists in Pasiklaban sa Paaralan announced

EIGHTEEN STUDENTS from all over the country will compete on March 6 in the finals of Pasiklaban sa Paaralan, the only ICT (information and communication technology)-integrated learning quiz show in the country.

In the grade school category, finalists are Carl Joshua Quimio of Muntinlupa Academy of Montessori, Muntinlupa City; Lucinelle Basil Balagtas of Mariano Marcos State University, Batac; Jessa Lou Antonio Valdez of Carmona College, Laguna; Alyssa Mae Angeles of the University of St. Anthony, Iriga City; Maria Isabel Cielo of Bishop Wenceslao School, Bohol; Xavier Jefferson Bas Go of Cambanogoy Chong Hua High School, Cambanogoy City; Stevie Ian Mae Lim of Ilaksan Gem Wizard Academy, General Santos City; and Alpaus Dumarao of De La Salle Santiago Zobel School, Muntinlupa City.

High school finalists are Ian Kenneth Cinco of Bulacan Evangelical School, Bulacan; Prodger Louis Aquino of Ateneo de Cebu, Cebu City; Ramon Cayo Bonus of Ilaya Industrial College, Bondoc Peninsula; Albert Ng of Bacolod Tay Tung High School, Bacolod City; Christabelle Tanchico of University of Luzon, Lucena City; Jean Angel Mendoza, Mandaue City; Jean Angel Mendoza of St. Joseph College, Pagadian City; Yohanes Gerardo of Notre Dame of Cotabato, Cotabato City; and Angelica Mae Soriano of Good Shepherd Cathedral School, Metro Manila.

Some 900 students from 476 schools participated in local contests held in 80 cities nationwide.

The competition uses a colorful wing Nissa, featuring Spongebob's custom-built van equipped with 10 laptops, used as playing consoles; a screen, the "brain" of the competition; mobile sound system; and LED projectors.

Pasiklaban covers science, mathematics, languages, literature and general information.

The Knee Learning Systems Inc. is the only ICT-integrated educational publishing company in the Philippines.

Visit www.ilaw.ph or pasiklabansa@gmail.com. E-mail pasiklabansa@gmail.com.

Applications accepted for UK Chevening scholarships

THE CHEVENING Scholarships at upon is now accepting applicants for school year 2011-12. Deadline for submission of applications is on March 11.

The British Ambassador Stephen Lillie said the scholarships were set up to young Filipinos who were leading leaders and change-makers and who had already made an impact in their fields.

Chevening Scholarships will enable young graduates to pursue higher education in their chosen field and to meet and network with peers and experts in the United Kingdom.

The scholarships are for one-year courses leading to a master's qualification.

Among the beneficiaries of the scholarships is Flora May Cerna, who received the 2010 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service for her exemplary work in encouraging several governmental organizations to increase transparency and accountability in their procedures.

Those interested to apply for the scholarship may visit the British embassy web site http://ukinthephilippines.fco.gov.uk/en/about-us/working-with-philippines/scholarships-and-education/.

Chevening scholarships are granted by the British government to individuals in the early stage of their careers who have the potential to become leaders, decision makers and opinion formers. The scholarship alums formed after the Chevening House in Kent, the country residence of the UK foreign secretary.

Special three-day review for March 27 realty brokers' licensure examination

THE UNIMAN Institute of Real Estate will conduct three days of special review classes for the first board examination for real estate brokers to be given by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) on March 27.

This will enable more people, other than those who are taking the required 120-unit training seminars at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) in Makati City, to review for the test.

Two review classes will have morning and afternoon sessions (8 a.m.-5 p.m.) and one with afternoon and evening sessions (4-10 p.m.) at AIM.

The review will cover all subjects prescribed by the Professional Regulatory Board of Real Estate Service (PRB-RES), namely: Fundamentals of Property Ownership; Code of Ethics and Responsibilities; Legal Requirements for Real Estate Service Practice; Real Estate Brokerage Practice; Subdivision Development; Condominium Concept and Other Types of Real Estate Holdings; Real Estate Finance and Economics; Basic Principles of Ecology; Urban and Rural Land Use; Planning, Development and Zoning; Legal Aspect of Sale, Mortgage and Lease; Documentation and Registration; Real Property Laws; and Real Estate Taxation.

Engineer Ernesto B. Cruz will personally conduct the review to be assisted by lawyer Ilse Ferrer-Lim and other real estate experts.

Call 9349740 or text REVIEW <your name and e-mail address> to 0915-4573590, 0939-1379242 or 0922-9881162 or e-mail uniman.ph@gmail.com.

ENTREP PARTNERSHIP RENEWED

Robinsons Malls and Sir Lo Sala University-Dasmariñas renewed their Entrep Corner partnership to develop students' entrepreneurial skills by giving them real retail experience. At the signing were (left to right) Atty. Victor T. Valencia of the Ritual Business Department; university president Bro. Gus Boquiren, FSC; Rosanna Cruzabalza, Villages of Robinsons Land Corporation; and Wilhelmina D. Ocub, business administration dean.

VETERANS BANK-INQUIRER WRITING CONTEST GETS AHEAD

The annual World War II True Stories essay-writing contest jointly undertaken by the Philippine Veterans Bank (PVB) and the Inquirer has received an April start date. Now on its third year, the competition asks high school students in the country to tell stories of true veterans and other survivors of the last global conflict (see related report below). April is also given over by the Public Services Society of the Philippines. The award for the PVB2 contest was received by Jose Vicente Garcia (third from left), PVB executive vice president; Miguel Ortiz Madrid, PVB vice president for corporate affairs; Cristy Salud Fernando, Inquirer Learning senior editor; Estella V. Almonte, National Historical Commission deputy director; Linda B. Bolilia, Learning contributing editor; Marites C. Dichoso, PVB assistant manager; and Dr. Ricardo Jose, University of the Philippines history professor. Others in photo are Jaime Campos, 2011 Award Winning essay and judges Alex Lacson, Eugen Cruz and Nelson Manlo.

Domuschola steps up to IB World School status

By Albert Lee

WHILE THERE is nothing in a top school system in the Philippines from adding the word "international" to the names of their schools, Domuschola International School has every reason to do so.

The International Baccalaureate (IB) has just this month authorized Domuschola to teach its Primary Years Program (PYP), with immediate effect, for pupils aged 3 to 12.

IB is a highly reputable, widely recognized, nonprofit educational foundation with one simply stated mission: "To provide high-quality international education for a better world."

To realize its mission, IB teams up with schools and governmental institutions in different countries, as well as international organizations "to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment."

Domuschola is one of only two schools in the Philippines recognized as an IB World School. As such, it conducts a curriculum framework consistent with that of 3,143 similar schools across 140 countries.

"This means our program is recognized around the world," Domuschola director Jenny Magsa-Isaac explains. "This ensures seamless adaptability for IB students, especially those who are children of the growing mobile population of parents who are diplomats, who are expatriates or who are part of other international and multinational organizations."

She notes that "coming to an IB World School is doubly tied to their vision of providing world class yet affordable education.

INQUIRING MINDS
First graders (above) doing group work; Happy kindergarten kids (right above) during Domuschola's "Books Come to Life" activity

"We believe from the bottom of our hearts that an international education should not just be for the elite," she adds.

School fees for one year in Domuschola are, on average, lower than at other internationally recognized schools in town, which host local or multinational, some of the premier Catholic schools, with 35 or more students per teacher per class, may charge a lot more, but then again Domuschola keeps the class size to 15 students, a learner-teacher ratio that no doubt is considered a luxury in overpopulated Metro Manila.

"Unlike traditional systems that rigidly revolve around the teacher, it is the students who are at the center of the learning process in an IB school," says Perla Pineda, Domuschola's PYP coordinator.

"That students are encouraged to propel their own learning by applying thinking skills critically and creatively," he adds. In other words, they are active inquirers and investigators, not passive empty boxes waiting to be stuffed full with facts and formulae by the teacher.

While IB schools feel at home no matter where they come from or nationality because the program is designed to nurture a coherent culture of international awareness," says Isaac.

According to the Domuschola directress, under the IB learning environment, students are groomed to be life long explorers and discoverers because "the knowledge they pick up today may not be all that relevant or valid by the time they finish." It is important to develop in the students a craving for continuous learning, she adds.

Students do not need static dead end knowledge, she stresses. "Our children will be graduating into a world that's very different from the one they live in. They will be holding jobs nobody has yet conceived," she says. "So, here at Domuschola, we are teaching them how to fish, rather than just giving them fish, as the saying goes."

A banner cry one of the walls at

IB VISITING team Nigel Portes Hunyer (top) and Marie Gucci (above) coking with Domuschola students.

Domuschola, which is located within the Philippine Sports Complex in Ugong, Pasig City, proclaims "Sa'tin Ang Ugat." Those words can say much of what drives and inspires Domuschola.

"We want to contribute to the leveling up of the quality of education," says Isaac. "We believe that improved standards in one school will ultimately inspire or encourage a chain reaction of improvements in other schools and, ultimately, in the entire education system. And that will be a big day for all of us to cheer about."

Domuschola International is at (here I... Philippine Sports Complex, Malvar Street, Ugong, Pasig City. Call (632) 6356493, 6332882 or 6826288. E-mail info@domuschola-domuschola.com.

FIFTH graders pick up "skills to live and work with others internationally" during their IT class at Domuschola.

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Deadline of submission of entries is on March 15, 2011

GOLDEN WHEEL AWARDS

Buncio is Driver of the Year

By Christopher Cuaco
Contributor

IT WAS another colorful and glittery night for Philippine motorsports as Superbikes champion Mauie Buncio bagged the coveted Driver of the Year of the 8th Golden Wheel Awards recently at the PAGCOR Grand Theater in Pasay City.

The hands-down decision by the Awards Committee issued heavily on the 22 year-old Buncio's four past crown in the Philippine Superbikes Championship Series. And with years ahead of him, Buncio, who recently signed up with Suzuki Philippines, would still surpass the record milestone of 16-time Superbikes champion Jolet Jao.

This year's decision came tough for the Awards Committee which had to consider the achievements of karter Stefano Marcelo and drag racer Jonathan Tio.

Marcelo, 16, equaled the feats of Edgar De Guzco and Repon Manzon in clinching his third career Karter of the Year crown that marked his successful comeback in the local scene after a year of international stints with the TonyKart factory team.

Tio, who was eyeing his third consecutive Golden Wheel Driver of the Year award, was an equally strong contender following his unprecedented eighth straight drag racing crown.

TOP awardees Buncio with Tio

Bid Buncio's anniversary in his near-perfect season campaign earned the nod of the judges.

Johnny Tan, the leader behind the Golden Wheel awards, expressed his gratitude to all the drivers, teams, sponsors and supporters for the huge success of the event as he stationed high hopes that the Golden Wheel inspires more potential champions in carry on the dream of seeing a prominent Filipino world champion on the horizon.

"It's not a far-fetched dream. Racing is a sport where Filipinos can excel at par with the world's best. Filipino drivers have improved a lot since the inception of the Golden Wheel awards in 2000 and with adequate support, we would soon realize that dream," said Tan.

Born September 16, 1988, Buncio was one of the promising riders in the motocross scene at age four but his career flourished in 2007 when he bagged his first overall Superbikes crown on his maiden seat, ending John Jao's long reign that started in 1997.

The 22-year-old champion also further proved his skills when he set the national fastest lap time record of 1:37.028 in July 2009 which remains undestroyed to date. He likewise brought honors to the country as he bagged the second runner-up honors in the Asia Series of Road Racing in Thailand in 2008, and finished third runner-up on his first try in the GS Laguna Sea Superbikes in 2008.

And with his new tie-up with Suzuki, Buncio looks forward to delivering more laurels for the country in the international scene.

"This is yet the biggest highlight of my career and I thank the Golden Wheel Awards for this reward that will serve as an inspiration to achieve more feats in the coming years," said Buncio.

Among the other recipients of the Golden Wheel award were four barangay for scooters, Jaime Bascial underbone racing, Glenn Aguilar for motocross, Marcelo for karting, Tio for drag racing, Abraham Salagan Collado for 4x4 off-road racing, Alex Perez for drifting, William Tan for grand touring cars, Sean Gobal for Asian armor karting and Yasuo Serena Iriarte for Asian junior karting.

Ye Rong Teh got a standing ovation when he was elevated to the Hall of Fame – joining four other previous recipients Pushida Rattimi in 2005, Dante Silvestre in 2008 and Robert Arevaquda last year.

And for the first time in years, the Golden Wheel also conferred media awards to QTV-11's 'LIVE for the X-TREME: Racing & Drifting' segment; ABTEL TV-5 for the 'Go-Karting: Stefano Marcelo & Ryder Bertos' segment; The Philippine Daily Inquirer for the numerous articles published featuring motorsports and motorsport events, and sports scribe Francis "CJ" Ochoa for his article 'Case of the Speedway' published by Philippine Daily Inquirer last September that won the Rotary Food Foundation award as the Best Motorsports Story.

The event was hosted by 89.1 FM Racing Beat anchor Iya Ibarra and actor model JC Cuadrado with Nob and Rocha providing the entertainment.

Club awards were also handed for the champions in karting, touring cars, drag racing, superbikes, underbone racing and motocross.

The 8th Golden Wheel awardees with Philippine Sports Commission chair Richie Garcia (center front row) and Golden Wheel chair Johnny Tan (fourth from right front row). They are (back row from left) Jean Graham Marcelo for karting, Abraham Salagan Collado for 4x4 off-road, Jonathan Tio for drag racing, Glenn Aguilar for motocross, William Tan for grand touring cars and Jaime Bascial for underbone. Front row from left, Dilmo Drapali Sourya Legaspi who received the award for Asian Karting champion Sean Gobal, Yasuo Serena Iriarte for Asian junior karting, Hall of Famer Ye Rong Teh , Ivan Zamilpa for scooters and Driver of the Year Mauie Buncio.

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PORSCHE

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8th Golden Wheel Awards Photo Gallery

SPONSORS get Golden Wheel plaques for their big support to Philippine Motorsports. From left, Secretary Lucot and Head Fortin with representatives Jamar del Rosario-Generoso Mohammad Rizalid Dimaporo, Andrew Sandy for Sen Miguel Zubiri sister, Tokohama marketing manager Bong Romero, MTRT General Manager Hanson Yu, Mel Aquino of Suzuki Phils., Marchie Ramirez of PGA Cars, Al Cuesbo of Cuesbo Motohaus and Int'l Sport vp president Jay Lucot.

LOCAL learning's great hopes: CJ Tan, Marvin Raya, Jonas Calderon, Francis Pinoy Reyes and three-time Kumar of the Year Stefanie Marcelo

HANSON Yu, General Manager of Motorcycle Taipei/Research Team (MTRT)

Bailey Hooka shows out a groove

AUTOPISTIC Scooters champion Ivan Santiago receives the award from Yu

Int'l Sports president Jay Lucot, 12-time motocross champ Glenn Aguilar and AAP-samurai Pepong Roldong

TEAM Ducati's Joe Alberto, Ted Alberto, Dondon Yuson, Glenn Aguilar and Iñigo Bilbao

JOHNNY Tan awards a plaque to guest referee PSC chair Ricardo Garcia.

OFF-ROAD Racing awardee Abraham Balajan Collado

RACING buddies meet again: Silverio and awardee Venezuelan Canadio Isaac Ye Bong Tek

FEMI-C Racing's Milo and Estefano Rivera's

RAINOG, Ralph Kenneth Torres, Mel Aquino, Elmer Esteban of Suzuki, Ivan Santiago and Paul Mark Dobbelo

MEL Aquino, Makahiya King Jaime Bautista and Al Cuesbo of Cuesbo Motohaus

PEL Dolfin and Jonathan Tio

THE SEL-I sports motocross winners.

ACTOR-turned-barrier Dhenaj Bandoi awards Stefanie Marcelo

DRIFTING organizer Charlie Cruz, drifting champ Alex Perez and DJ Bonne Anthony Reyes

MAHDV Edupas

YOKOHAMA'S Bong Romero and grand touring car champ William Tan

AAP's Joe Dupino and Mark Dandan with the Indonesian ambassador's daughter Ms. Diliara Empaid Soeryo, a guest who received the Golden Wheel for Asian Karting champ Sean Gelael

LOT Terminal 2 situation for PDI, QTV

2010 season highlights

By Christopher Castro

PHILIPPINE motorsports enjoyed another year of success with the domestic newcomers, intense rivalries and the rise of a new breed of potential champions that highlighted the 2010 racing season.

Surviving the struggles and economic challenges that hit the country last year only proved that motorsports racing has brewed up its spot as another vital sector of Philippines sports – thanks to organizers, drivers and other people behind it who have shown dedication and hardwork to keep it more alive.

The competitiveness fired up with the emergence of new talents who made the quest for titles much tougher for the top guns, ushering in a new golden era in Philippine racing at the turn of the decade.

Of all who savored the sweet rewards of victory last year, three champions achieved significant milestones in their careers – Marco Bonzio, Stefano Manzi and Jonathan Tin.

The 22-year-old Manzi captured the Philippine Superbikes Championship Series crown for the fourth consecutive year and with years ahead of him, he could still surpass the record feat of 14-time superbikes champion John Ace.

It wasn't easy though, with the comforting sage of his rivalry with 13-time motocross champion Glenn Aguilar and the rise of 24-year-old Ducati Wannabe as a top contender in the Open class. Despite the engine problems that added to his woes last season, he went on with a near-perfect campaign for the overall title.

Manzi's, too, had his own share of challenges before claiming his third career honor of the four plum. After a year of international campaign as a Tony Kart factory driver, Manzi's found himself struggling up against the younger bunch of karters led by Ricky Benito and John Tandoc of Mindanao who showed marked improvements last year.

But his big test in the Final leg at Carmona Racetrack sealed it all, forging a successful comeback in the hard-core to be signaled the best of three-time champion Edgen Dy-Liacco and Pepon Marave.

Tin bagged his eighth Drag Racing title, but not without a hitch. Teammate Anthony Go and Dept. Santos of rival team EE motors

JO SARMIENTO

PAKIKI Bonzio, Glenn Aguilar and Dodi Watanabe at the podium

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ALL OILS SINK TO THE BOTTOM WHEN ENGINE'S OFF

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2010 season highlights

From page K3

KARTING at Boondocked brings the action down to Metro Manilans.

sports stepped up their games while a new breed ascended almost turned boss to spin.

But his passion for speed and racing circuits never prevailed, stepped on the gas once more to remain at the pedestal of the drag racing scene.

Circuit racing was equally exciting with the week to week battle between multi-titled champion Mike Velasco and William Tan. It was dominated the entire in the early chapters but Tan evened up the title race with his triumph in the Odd and Even Dogs.

The big twist came when a back injury forced Velasco to quit action as the final two legs as Tan romped to his first racing career crown.

Progression growth and new exciting events added life to Philippine racing. The entry of FIDS-C Racing provided a booster in karting with its young talented crew led by Miles and Stephane Rivers, KJ Goho and Sacha Feliciano.

Motorcycle riders also doubled as witnessed in the Philippine Underbone Ring Championship where Jaime David captured his second career Underbone Ring plum.

Suzuki Philippines also played a big role in the growth of Underbone racing as it injured up Francis to add strength in its pool of riders led by Jobenley Enriquez and Paul Tolibida who will become the country's campaign in the international scene this year.

Automatic Scooters, backed up by SUZUKI, provided a new avenue for motorcycle enthusiasts as the title clinching four of Team Suzuki Ego inspired Scooter riders to join the season.

Sel-J Sports, a breakaway group from the governing NAMMA, kept numerous allies, moving around the country to discover new talents to follow the steps of Glenn Ilgolia who remained the country's greatest motorcycle champion after bagging his 12th career crown this year.

With the Clark International Speedway in full swing, the influx of new technology and the emergence of new talents, Philippine motorsports is expected to be more exciting and dynamic.

"The looming oil crisis brought about by the unrest in the Middle East definitely will have its effect but we expect more thrilling and unpredictable races and more talents to come out in the 2011 season," said 80 motorsport is godfather Johnny Tan who organizes most of the racing events.

THE local motorsports population is booming, thanks to world-class facilities like the Batangas Racing Circuit

Suzuki's Team Pilipinas joining Asia Road Race for international debut

HERE now on, there will only be one team representing the Philippines in any international motorcycle competition.

And they will all be powered by Suzuki motorbikes.

The Philippine Sports Commission in February last granted full endorsement to Team Suzuki Philippines—to be known as Team Pilipinas from now on—and will have the full blessing to use the national flag as well as the emblem or coat of arms of local motorcycle racing units, suits and uniforms.

In fact, Team Pilipinas is now setting its sight on the upcoming Asia Road Racing Championship, the continent's premier motorcycle road racing championship than a field in six countries—Malaysia, Japan, Indonesia, India, China and Qatar.

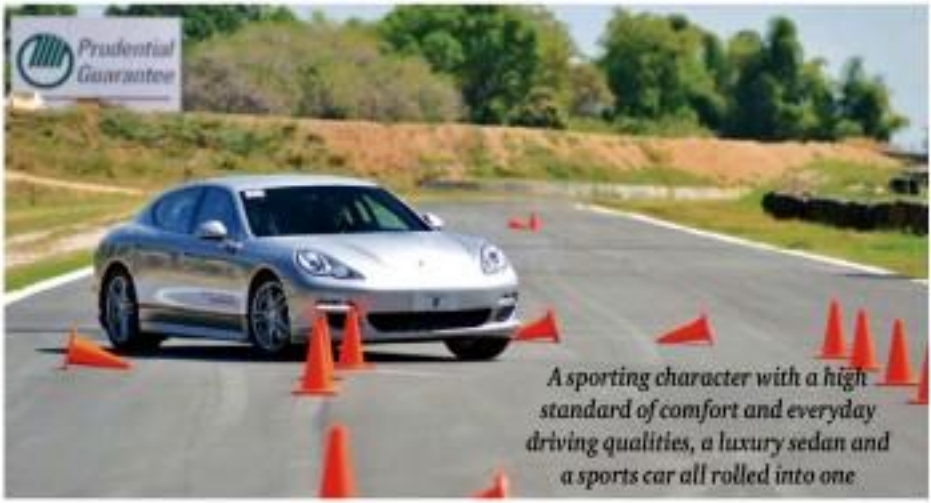
"But will be the first time the Philippines will be fielding a team in this prestigious international tourney.

Team Pilipinas, which dominated the 2010 Philippine Underbone Ring Championship last year as well as other locally organized racing events, will be led by two of the country's best riders: Marco Rimein and John Lery Enriquez (riders of of Team Suzuki Philippines).

In a simple ceremony, Suzuki's Martin Arnedo, APH assistant general manager for motorcycle sales and marketing, formally received the letter of commission from PSC chair Richie Garcia.

SPI, the country's only integrated Asia Manufacturing company, said it is proud of the recent appointment adding that Team Pilipinas will do its best to gain not only experience but also attain international success in motorcycle racing.

The Panamera V6 Sport Driving Experience



A sporting character with a high standard of comfort and everyday driving qualities, a luxury sedan and a sports car all rolled into one

PORSCHE Center Philippines headed by Robert Coyiuto III recently held a one-day sport driving activity for the Porsche owners and customers at the Clark International Speedway in Pampanga last February 19, 2011.

"This driving program was patterned after Porsche's very own internationally acclaimed Porsche Road Show event," reveals Coyiuto III. He adds, "We are very happy to have our drivers experience first hand from the rainmaker of circuit racing how to maximize the potential of

...ces cars."

"We have an exclusive joint partnership with Johnny Tan of Clark International Speedway. That's why we have permanent presence by way of prominent signages seen all around the track. We find this an appropriate venue to hold our driving experiences as we can offer our patrons a safe environment."

Dubbed the Porsche Sport Driving Experience, Cars Panamera V6 cars were driven by mainly Clark's customers under the professional supervision of the legendary Rainmaker racing class led by Mercedes Ramirez, PCA Cars Motorsports Manager, champion race driver Georges Basaures and current Philippine Touring Car Championship con-sender Stefan Ramirez.

Robert Coyiuto, PCA Cars importer principal of Porsche in the country, attended the event.

The participants experienced the Panamera V6 while tackling several exercises on the track designed to highlight it's features. It gave them the opportunity to exploit the Panamera's power and handling as well as highlight its distinctive character of being both a luxury sedan and a true sports car all rolled into one.

Open track sessions in the morning and afternoon allowed the Porsche owners to experience running their vehicles on the 4.2 kilometer closed circuit.

For more information on Porsche's current line-up, visit Porsche Center Philippines showroom at 2811 EDSA, Mandaluyong City or call 727-0283 to 85.